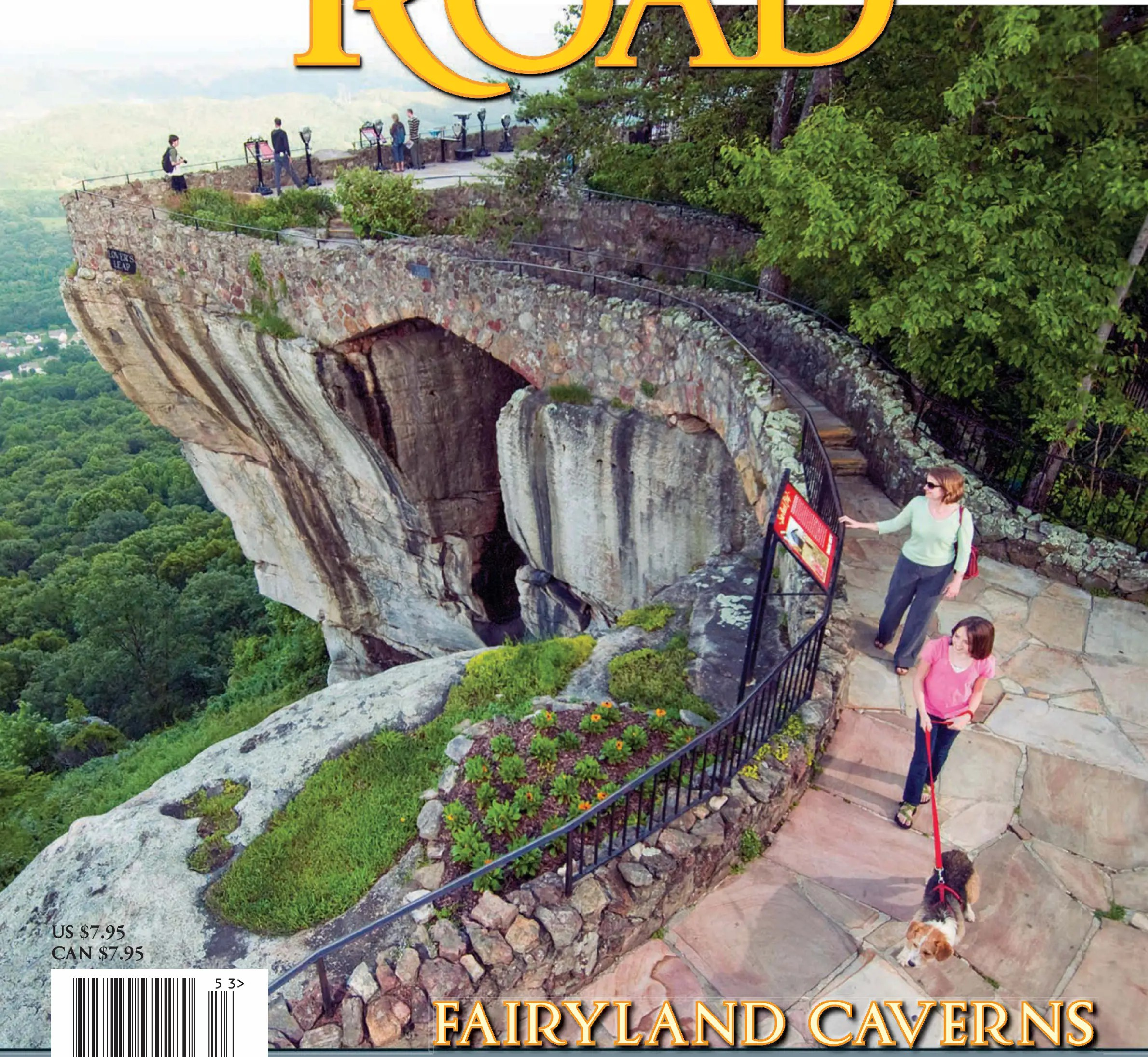
Rock City Gardens · Bryce Canyon · Peter Pan Mini Golf

AMERICAN ROAD

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 3

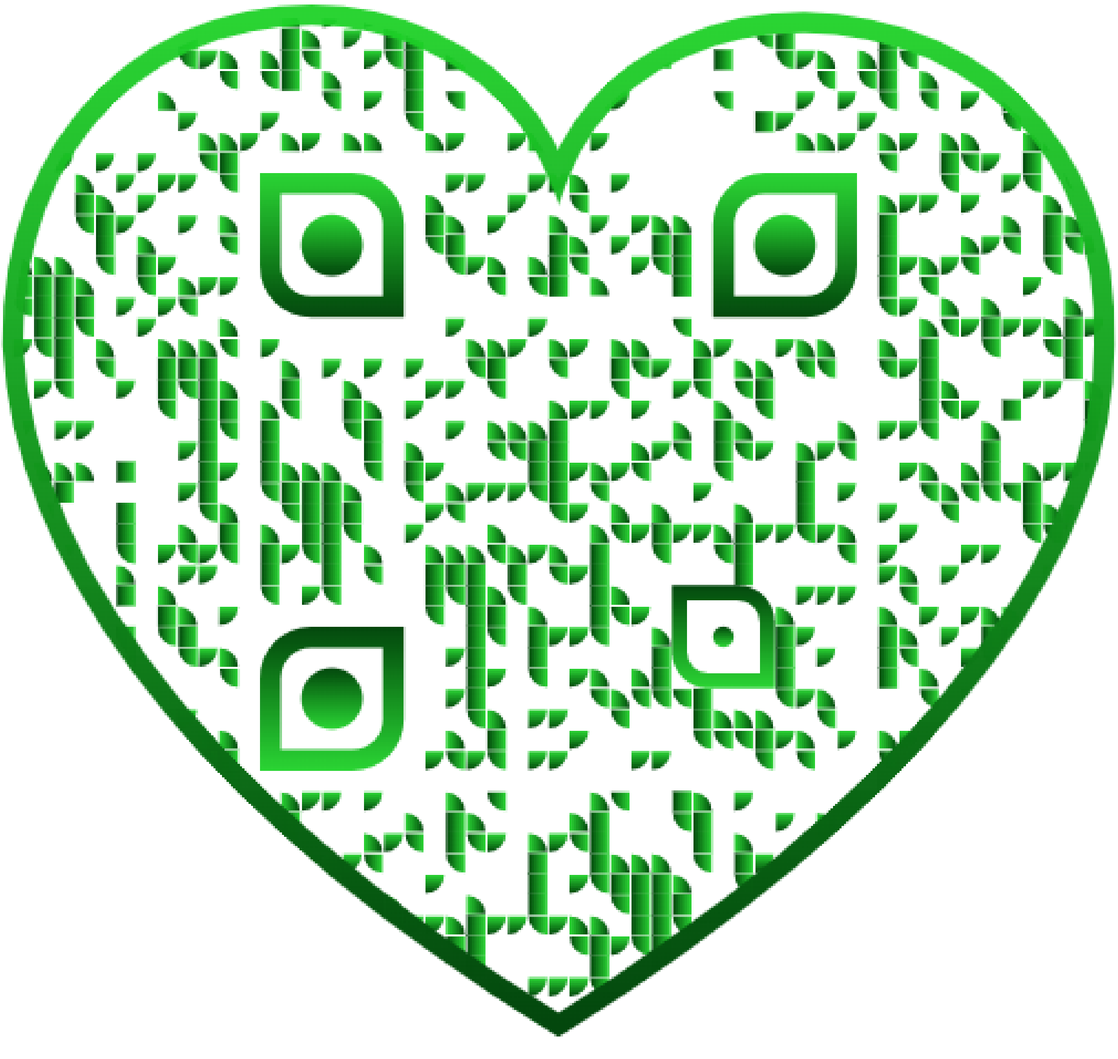


US $7.95
CAN $7.95

FAIRYLAND CAVERNS

It's a Storybook Down There

Display in Travel Through December 2025



DISCOVER
CARBON
COUNTY
WYOMING

ADVENTURE. OUT.

wyomingcarboncounty.com

Discover the scenic side on the road less traveled. Find your next adventure out west.

Sponsored by the Carbon County Visitors' Council

Start planning your outdoor escape!

OVERLORD
JUNE 6, 1944
THE NATIONAL D-DAY MEMORIAL

In Between
the **Blue Ridge Parkway**
and **Smith Mountain Lake,**

you'll find local craft beverages, world class disc golf courses, and a powerful tribute to American heroes.

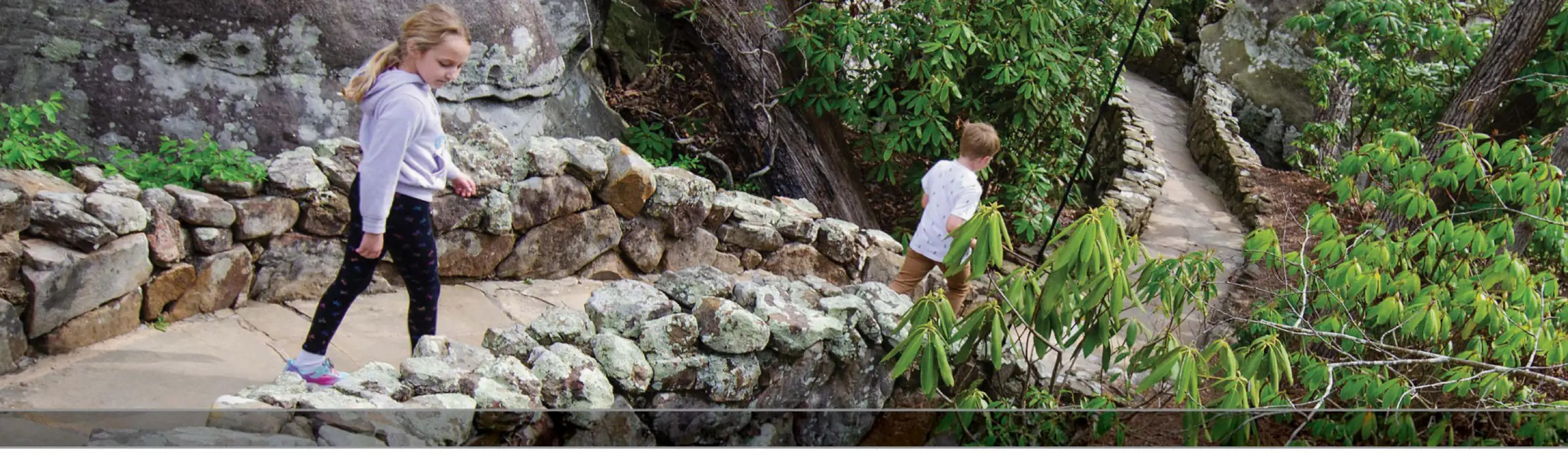
Bedford County has always been known as that peaceful place between Lynchburg and Roanoke. Now, it's time to discover all that Bedford, VA has to offer.

DestinationBedfordVA.com

Destination
BEDFORD
VIRGINIA

877-447-3257
#DestinationBedfordVA

VIRGINIA IS FOR
MOUNTAIN LOVERS



Features

32 Fairyland Revisited

THE ENDURING WONDERS OF ROCK CITY

Rock City Gardens is a magic mountain on the map of roadside attractions—an Appalachian institution that lifts all comers into the clouds to see seven states before leading them downward again into a glowing crack in the earth that is Fairyland Caverns. We visit the gardens' highs and lows as they near their one-century mark, admiring the ancient formations that never grow old. • THOMAS ARTHUR REPP

74 Wynken, Blynken, & Nod on US 6

THE NURSERY POEM THREE TIMES SET IN STONE

"Wynken, Blynken, and Nod" is a dream poem by Eugene Field that tells of three children who flew off into the night sky riding inside a traditional Dutch *klomp*. Here's the story about how those kids rode their big shoe to Colorado, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania via the Grand Army of the Republic Highway and Chicago sculptor Mabel Landrum Torrey. • JILLIAN GURNEY

94 Tee Time in Neverland

THE GAME NEVER GROWS OLD AT PETER PAN MINI GOLF

If you don't remember a *Tyrannosaurus rex* in the Peter Pan story, that's okay. You'll find Tick-Tock Croc here, too, nipping at the seat of Captain Hook's pants. Peter Pan Mini Golf may take some liberties with the James Barrie classic, but it sure squeezes a lot of fun onto three acres of land. • BOB CURLEY

Departments

66 Museum Pieces

"The Real Winnie-the-Pooh"

If you visit the Big Apple and walk to the place where 42nd Street intersects Times Square, you'll stand at the proverbial crossroads of the world. You'll also be close to the Hundred Acre Wood and a humble bear who lives with his friends at the New York Public Library. • ROBERT KLARA

88 America's Playgrounds

"Bryce Canyon"

What's in a hoodoo? It depends upon how you look at it. In the sandy spires of Bryce Canyon National Park, you might spy a poodle, Queen Victoria, or even the displaced skyscrapers of Wall Street. Just don't expect to find Ebenezer's lost cow. • ROBERT PATRICK

112 Hollywood Boulevard

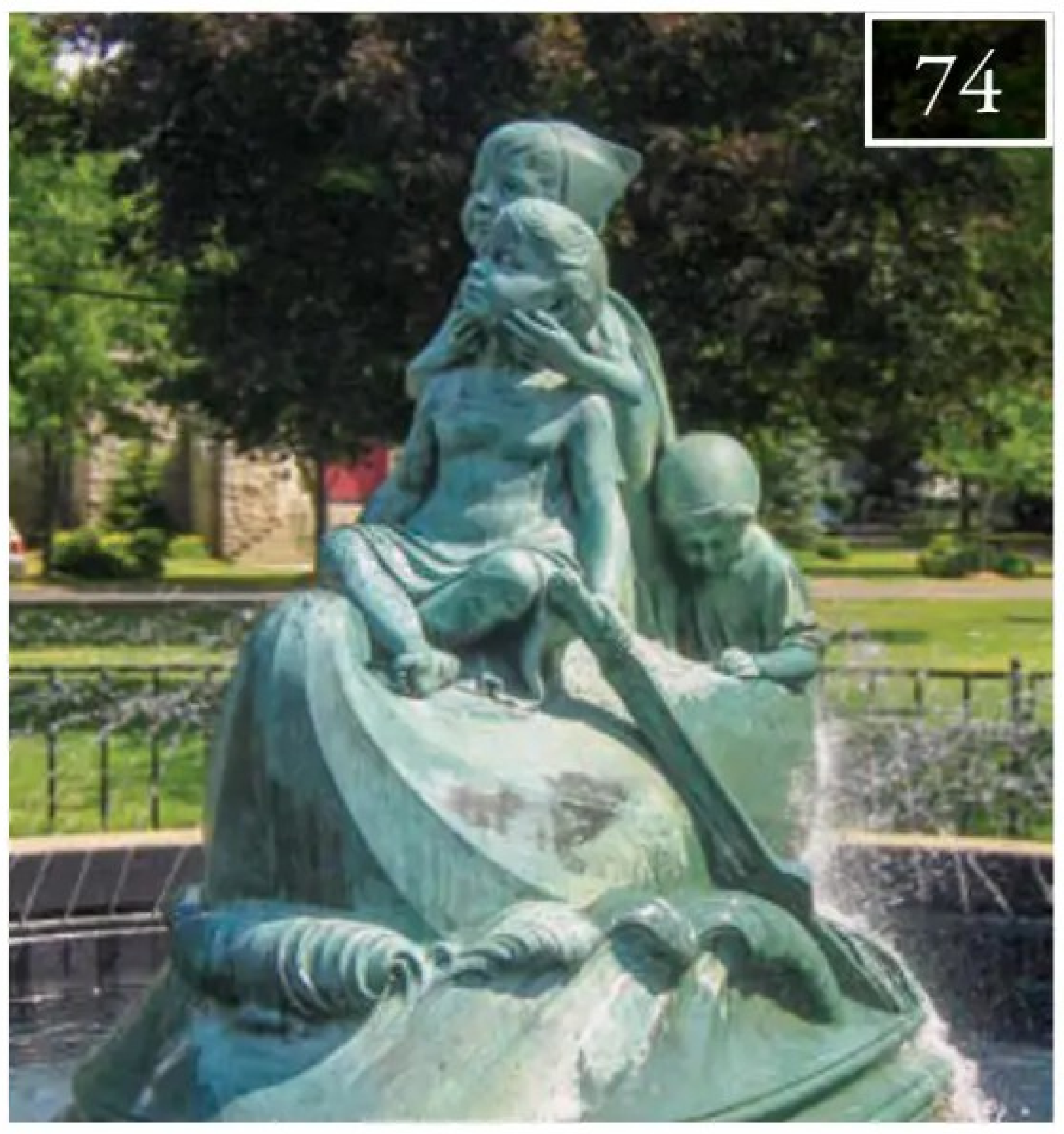
"Chinatown Wishing Well"

The crumbling wishing well in Los Angeles' Chinatown has seen some better days—conferring love, peace, and long life upon those souls who've tossed a lucky coin. Yet empty as the well now is, it still tells a fortunate tale about silent movie star Anna Lee Wong. • JESS WINFIELD

120 The Extra Mile

"Abilene's Storybook Garden"

Where did Stuart Little go when he motored into the sunset at the end of E. B. White's novel? Some say he drove to Abilene, Texas, where he can be seen today alongside Charlotte, Wilbur, and other characters drawn by classic children's book illustrator Garth Williams. • MATTHEW ANDERSON



VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 3 • AUTUMN 2025

AMERICAN ROAD

AMERICAN ROAD MAGAZINE • *PO Box 46519 • Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48046 • Phone (877) 285-5434 • Fax (877) 285-5434* • americanroadmagazine.com

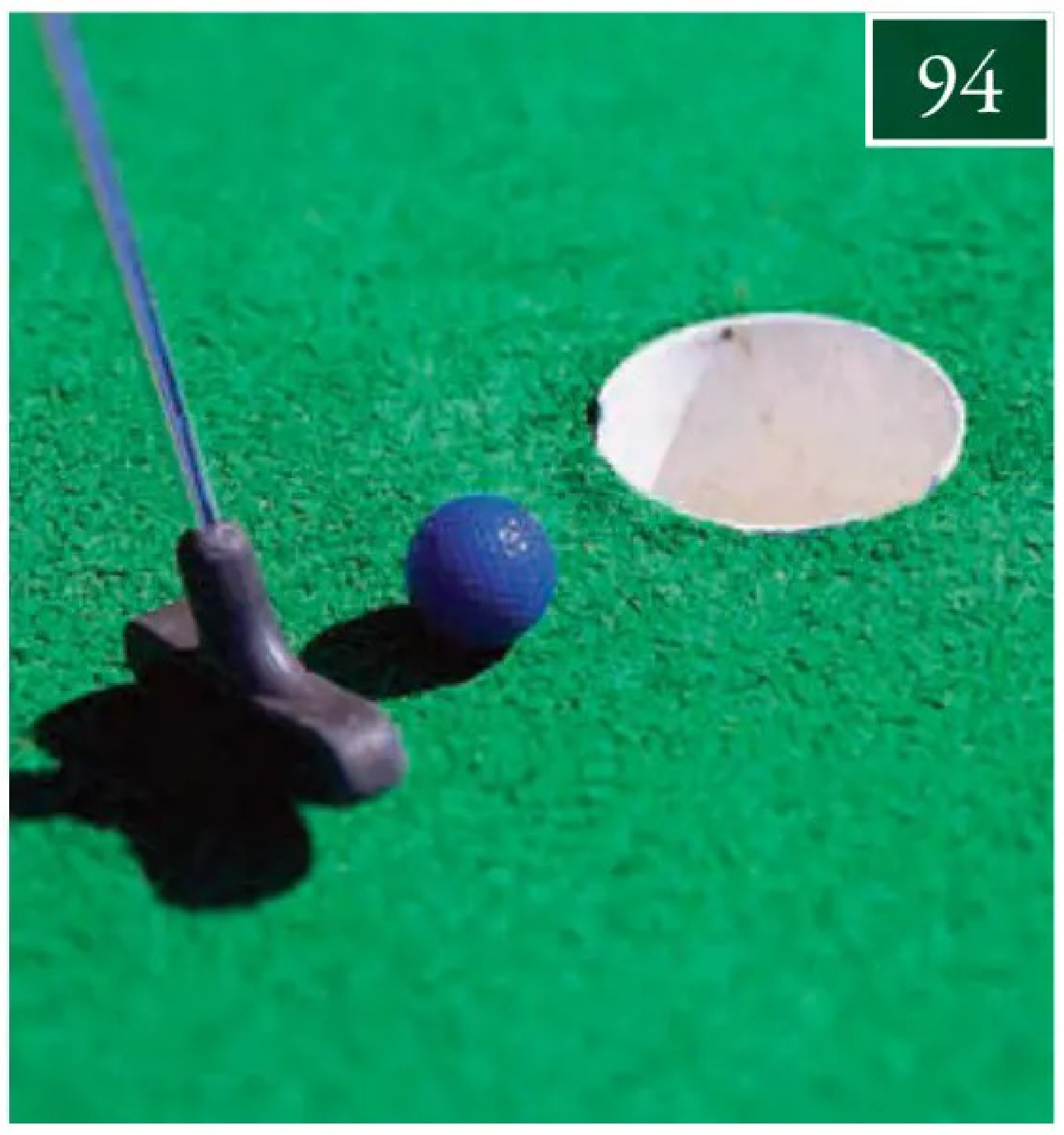
Stop-Overs

14 **Memory Motel**
What does Heidi, the goat-herding girl of Johanna Spyri's classic children's novel, have to do with downtown Helen, Georgia? Spend a night inside the windmill at the Heidi Motel during Oktoberfest or Christkindlmarkt, and you'll find out. • SHERRY HOWARD SALOIS

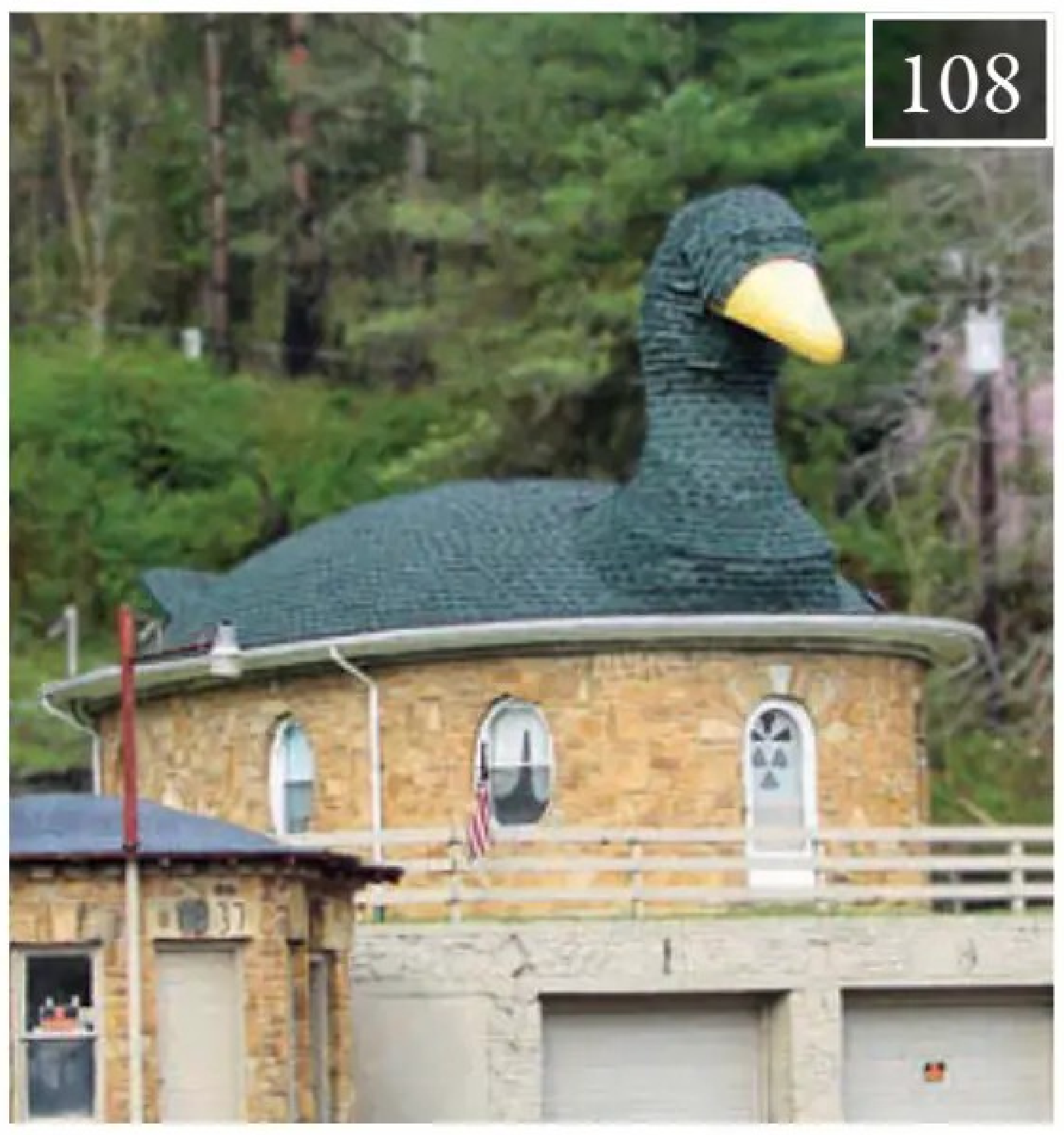
62 **Think Big!**
For many reasons, the Pied Piper comes across as the ultimate loner in tales told by the Brothers Grimm. But what is the fellow with the flute doing out there in the forest west of Schellsburg, Pennsylvania, standing on the edge of the old Lincoln Highway? • POP AMHEARST

84 **Diner Days**
Heigh-ho! Heigh-ho! It's off to lunch you go! And if you are fairytale lucky, your noontime meal will find you dining on a suburban stretch of Roosevelt Road, twenty-six miles west of Chicago, at the Seven Dwarfs Restaurant in Wheaton, Illinois. • BRIAN HODGE

108 **Another Roadside Attraction**
One fateful Thanksgiving in the 1930s, George Stacy took a gander at his wife's roasted goose and hatched an idea that would forever change the roadside in Hazard, Kentucky: Why not build a house with a gigantic bird nesting on its roof? • MARK VERNARELLI



94



108

Roadside

5 **Editor's Rambler**
"My Last Childhood"

10 **Write-of-Way**
Letters from Our Readers

11 **Who's Driving? Contest**

12 **Friends in the Fast Lane: Road Event Retrospect**
Salvation Mountain Sees a Little Saving Grace • When Cadillacs Fly in the Motor City • Bandon, Oregon, Is Berry, Berry Good

18 **Tunnel Vision: News Around the Road**
Mickey Meets Will Rogers • Whata Anniversary! • Google Me This, Mr. Serling • *Jaws* 50 Years Later • The Cuyahoga Choo-Choo • What Grows on Here? • *Halloween I-17:* The Sequel? • Bye-Bye, Burgermaster • I-83 Hotdog Horror • Little Church, Big Impact • Voy 61 Celebrates Its 75th • Lets Eat Waffles in Kansas • A Will to Rebuild • Old Signs, New Shine in Amarillo • Ice Cream and Saddles • Every Dog Had His Day

26 ***American Road* Sweepstakes**

116 **Inspection Station**
Dreamegg Portable White Noise Machine • *A Place Called Yellowstone: The Epic History of the World's First National Park* • *Historic Kansas Roadsides* • *Lincoln Highway: Discover America's Forgotten Main Street* • *The Highways and Byways of Alabama* • JisuLife Handheld Portable Turbo Fan

124 **Advertiser Index**

126 **John Claar's Hitching Post**
Road Gifts & Souvenirs

128 **American Crossroad Puzzle**
"Mother Goose on the Loose"

SEE
BEAUTIFUL
ROCK CITY
ATOP LOOKOUT MT.

EDITOR'S RAMBLER

"My Last Childhood"

"Oklahoma is a walkie-talkie chewed on by a wombat" said the 9-year-old girl, smartly tapping a finger on the United States map.

I wasn't sure I'd heard her correctly. And so my raised eyebrows must have confessed.

"A walkie-talkie," she repeated, "chewed on by a wombat." Her tone conveyed a hint of compassion for my ignorance. "Look," she sighed, resigning herself to trying again.

The map she was poring over was one of those paper place mats seen in old-time diners. It bore an image of the country printed in crayon colors so kids could acquaint themselves with states' boundaries and locations. I had opened a conversation about the map as we sat at the counter eating breakfast—small-talk with scrambled eggs—feeling fatherly, thinking to teach the youngster about national geography. Now I was the one being schooled.

"*This* is the walkie-talkie's antenna," she continued, carefully tracing Oklahoma's skinny pink panhandle. "And these jaggies down here are the teeth marks. From the wombat." I suppose I still appeared stupefied, squinting like Euell Gibbons over a bowl of Grape-Nuts. "Let's try some easier ones," she suggested with thicker sympathy. "You *do* know that Idaho is a frightened gnome, right? Here's his pointy hat. He's cowering because Mean Man Montana with the shouty mouth is yelling at him from next door."

So it went. To her eyes, Washington State was a dog climbing a mountain. Oregon was a shark with a prodigious fin, and Minnesota a dragon with spectacular wings. She saw the outline of an ocean horizon in the coast of California, with the tail of a diving whale represented by San Francisco Bay. She called Alabama and Mississippi the "sneaky twins"—mischievous kids whispering back-to-back with their naughty feet in the gulf. She styled Louisiana a zombie shambling with outstretched hands—not unlike the way I once found myself staggering through the French Quarter on a foggy morning following a particularly blinding Mardi Gras.

By the time she'd explained the shapes of roughly half the contiguous forty-eight, I considered my education complete. And the lesson I'd learned left me wishing I could see the country's pieces again through a child's eyes. I've lost something to perspective over my 61 years. It was a half century ago when my Uncle Art showed me an old wooden puzzle of America and explained that Alaska and Hawaii weren't part of the set because the puzzle had been manufactured before 1959. "Maybe you'll visit all the states when you grow up," he'd said, and I've since done that, many times over. Yet I can't help but feel my familiarity with the territory has left me overlooking something astounding, even if it is merely the fact that Wyoming is so square it must certainly be a cube and is therefore hiding a whole other dimension just under the chin of the aforementioned Mean Man Montana.

This issue of *American Road* strives to return to the lanes of gumdrops and lollipops. It finds its toys in hideaways—crackerjack stops that have long encouraged play. First, we head to Rock City Gardens atop Georgia's Lookout Mountain, a flowered Shangri-La that has always offered tourists more than a pocketful of posies. Our focus is its gnomes—fuzzy-faced fellows who hail from further away than Idaho—and the fluorescent, underground wonderland that is Fairyland Caverns. Have you ever hoped to see Jack with his miraculous beanstalk sprouting deep within the earth? Or Rip van Winkle bowling nine pins with his elfin gang from the Catskills? You'll find them here, forever glowing in the dark.

An old poem describes how Wynken, Blynken, and Nod sailed the stars one night riding a wooden shoe. In the 1920s, Chicago sculptor Mabel Landrum Torrey chose the three and their cosmic clog as subjects for a sculpture. She completed an acclaimed model that was translated into two fountains and a library bronze. Here's the kicker: Those artworks are all installed on US 6. We tell you where to find them and recount their histories, to boot.

A trip to Peter Pan Mini Golf shows us what can be done with a putter and a hook. Bryce Canyon dazzles with hoodoos. We check into the Heidi Motel and check out the original Winnie-the-Pooh at the New York Public Library. Our "Extra Mile" takes us to Texas and the town of Abilene, where we sign off with the Three Bears, Charlotte and Wilbur, and Stuart Little paddling a canoe shaped like the state of Florida—or so I suppose that 9-year-old I met at the diner would have insisted.

In the end, she finished her breakfast, completed her assessment of the US states, then looked to me to fill in some gaps. "So those are the things I see," she said, sliding the place mat toward me. "Now tell me what you know."

"Um.... Michigan is a mitten?" I muttered meekly.

"Missouri is a Simpson," she countered, snatching the map back. "See all its spiky hair?"

Thomas Repp

Editorial Director

ON OUR WINDSHIELD: Guests stroll the heights of Lookout Mountain at Rock City Gardens. Photo courtesy Rock City, Inc. [Opposite] A weathered barn in a southern Appalachia cornfield bears a fading painted advertisement that encourages passersby to "See Rock City." Photo © Jaquiline Nix.

AMERICAN ROAD

THOMAS ARTHUR REPP
Editorial Director

REBECCA REPP
General Manager

JILLIAN GURNEY
ROBERT KLARA
JESS WINFIELD
Senior Editors

SHERRY HOWARD SALOIS
Copy Editor

GARY MANTZ
Radio Show and Podcast Host

MATTHEW ANDERSON
CAMI BECKER
STACY BOSCO
TONY CRAIG
BOB CURLEY
ANDERSEN EMENDING
ADAM HLASNY
BOB MALTRAVERS
LYNN MILLER
JEFF NAZZARO
CHESLEY OXENDINE
KENDRA RUCZAK
LEEDA TURPIN
Roadside Contributors

POP AMHEARST
KARRAS STRASBURG
MARK VERNARELLI
Department Editors

SONNET TAMSIN AVALON
SAWYER THOMAS 'ALDEN
Creative Interns

ED WEXLER
Caricature Artist

LES THOMAS
Circulation

JENNIFER & PAT BREMER
Online Forum Moderators

◆

Advertising Representatives
Phone **(877) 285-5434** for the representative in your region

REBECCA REPP
becky@americanroadmagazine.com
(877) 285-5434 / Ext. 9

SCOTT RICKLES
srickles@americanroadmagazine.com
(877) 285-5434 / Ext. 8

JENNIE MITTEN
jmitten@americanroadmagazine.com
(877) 285-5434 / Ext. 5

DAN TOMKIEWICZ
dtomkiewicz@americanroadmagazine.com
(877) 285-5434 / Ext. 3

DAN WAXMAN
dwaxman@americanroadmagazine.com
(877) 285-5434 / Ext. 6

◆

AMERICAN ROAD® (ISSN 1542-4316) is published quarterly by Mock Turtle Press, LLC. Included in EBSCO Publishing's products.

Copyright © 2025 by Mock Turtle Press. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Printed on recycled paper.

MAIN OFFICE
PO Box 46519, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046
(877) 285-5434 / Ext. 1
americanroad@americanroadmagazine.com

CIRCULATION
PO Box 46519, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046
(877) 285-5434 / Ext. 2
circulation@americanroadmagazine.com

AMERICAN ROAD® app available through **iTunes**.

Subscriptions: $23.95 per year, US; $44.95, Canada; $54.95, foreign.
AMERICAN ROAD® does not accept unsolicited materials.
Writers query **editor@americanroadmagazine.com**.

We are not responsible for materials lost or damaged in transit. Opinions of articles appearing in AMERICAN ROAD® do not necessarily reflect those of AMERICAN ROAD® editors or staff.

americanroadmagazine.com
facebook/americanroad
pinterest/americanroad

Where Fun
GOES FURTHER

WHATEVER SPARKS YOUR JOY – WE'VE GOT IT!

With a list of activities a mile long, Clarksville has what you need to make your trip a good time. Historic attractions, an artsy vibe, naturally beautiful rivers and trails, a trendy craft food and beverage scene, and a variety of events throughout the year deliver fun times and lasting memories.

Make the quick drive and you'll see what we mean.

VISIT Clarksville TN.COM
PLAN YOUR TRIP->

visitclarksvilletn.com

SEE YOURSELF IN SEVIERVILLE

Twinkling lights, hearty holiday meals and gifts for all those you hold dear. When winter warms your heart most of all, you know you're in Sevierville, Tennessee. Your Smokies start here.

SEVIERVILLE
YOUR SMOKIES START HERE

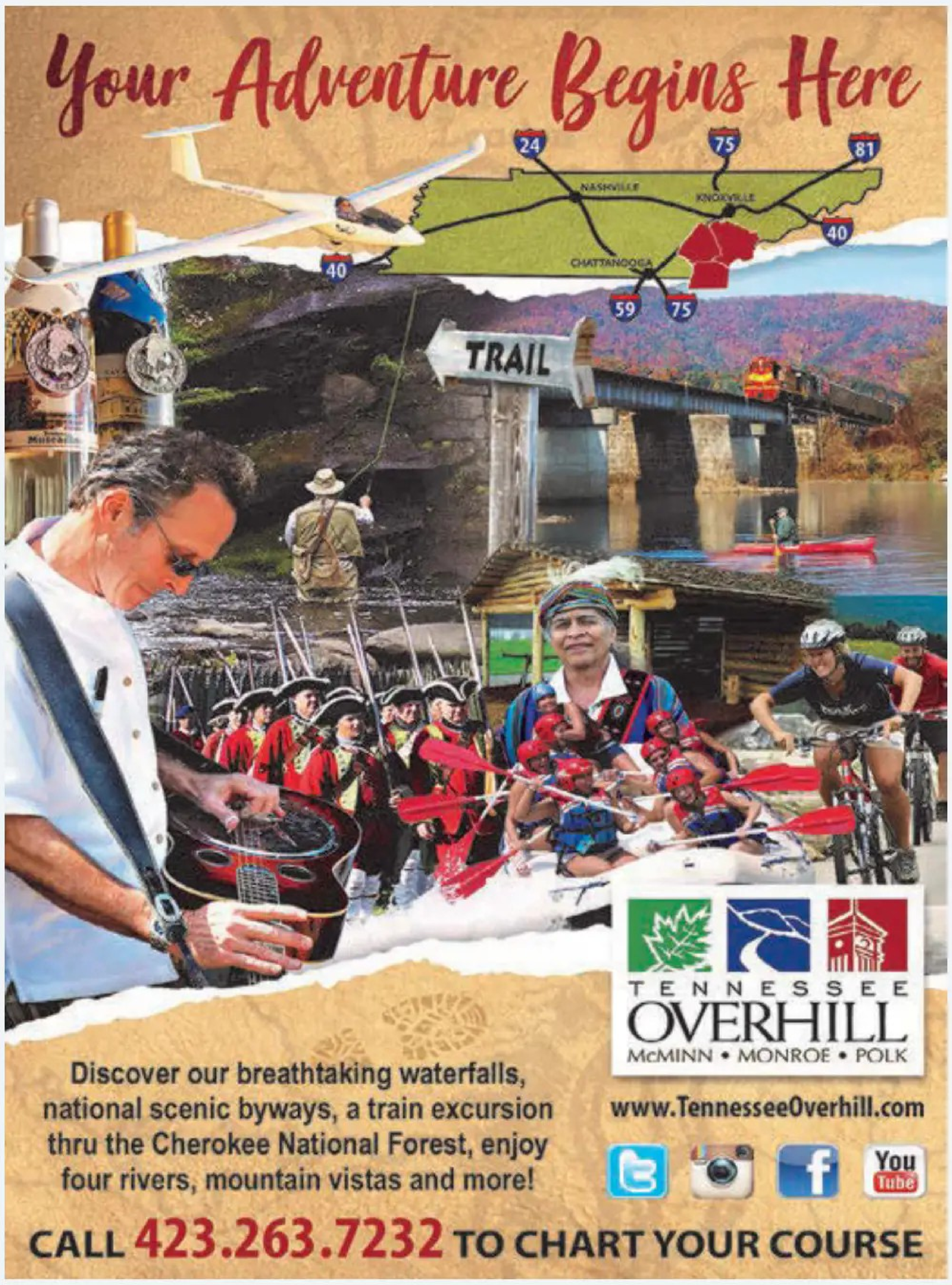
1-888-738-4378 · VisitSevierville.com/Winterfest

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY IS JUST A CLICK AWAY.

www.escapetothesoutheast.com

SOUTHEAST
TOURISM SOCIETY

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
As I Went out One Morning
Bob Dylan
Chuggin' Along
Luke Bryan
I Asked For Water
Howlin' Wolf
Too Weak to Fight
Jerry Lee Lewis
Ain't Killed Me Yet
Eric Church
It'll Feel Good After It Quits Hurtin'
Loretta Lynn
I'm Sitting On Top Of The World
Bill Monroe
OUR MUSIC. YOUR STORY.
TENNESSEE
SOUNDS PERFECT
TNVACATION.COM



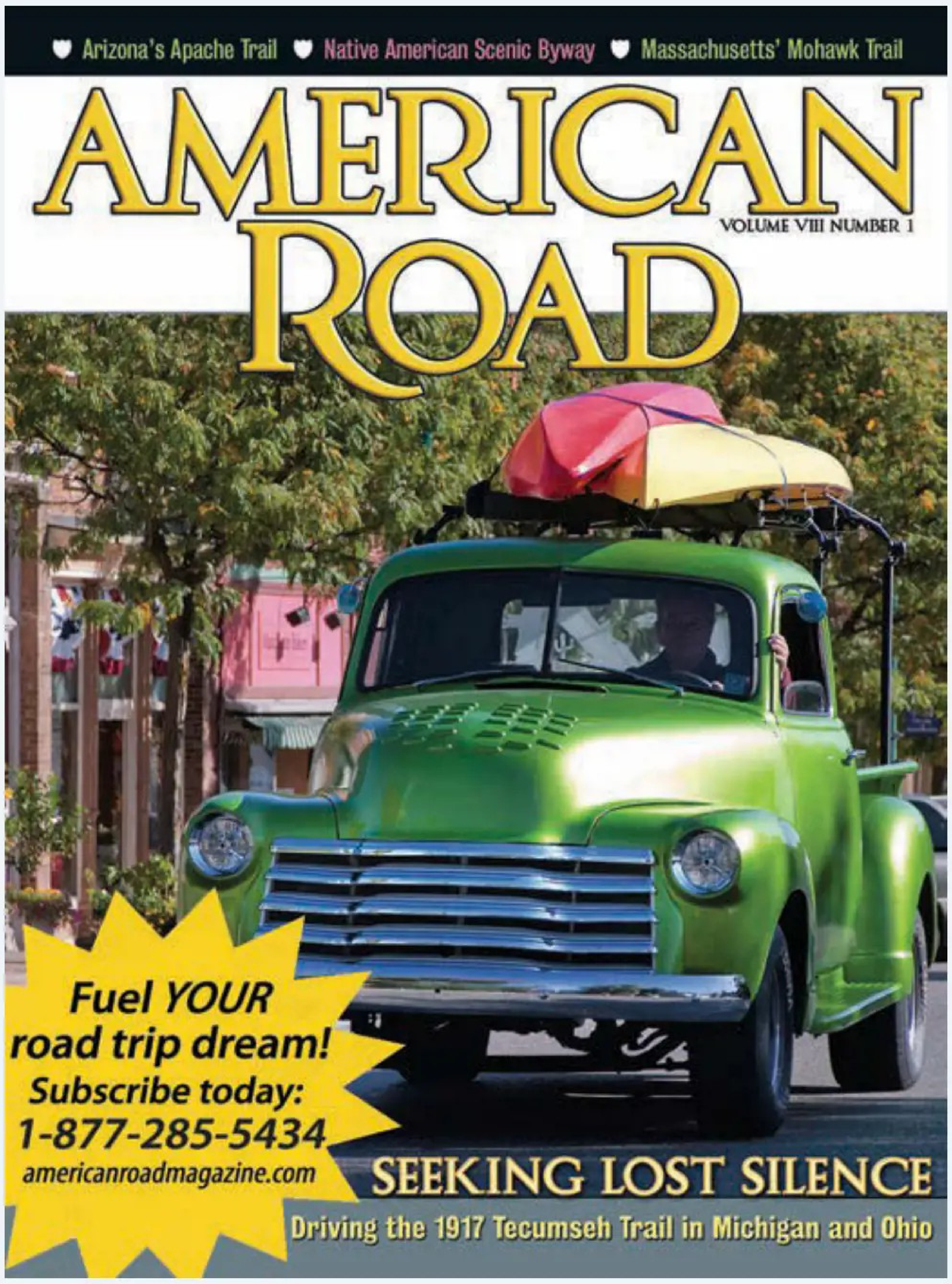
Your Adventure Begins Here

TENNESSEE
OVERHILL
McMINN • MONROE • POLK

www.TennesseeOverhill.com

Discover our breathtaking waterfalls, national scenic byways, a train excursion thru the Cherokee National Forest, enjoy four rivers, mountain vistas and more!

CALL 423.263.7232 TO CHART YOUR COURSE



♥ Arizona's Apache Trail ♥ Native American Scenic Byway ♥ Massachusetts' Mohawk Trail

AMERICAN ROAD

VOLUME VIII NUMBER 1

Fuel YOUR road trip dream!
Subscribe today:
1-877-285-5434
americanroadmagazine.com

SEEKING LOST SILENCE
Driving the 1917 Tecumseh Trail in Michigan and Ohio

Take Friends With You On Trips? Want To Learn How?

The GROUP TRAVEL Family
Your 1st Choice In Group Travel Solutions

Join the Group Travel Family. MEMBERSHIP IS FREE.

The organization of 25,000 Travel Leaders.

FREE Monthly Newsletter. FREE Local Networking. Build Your Travel IQ.

grouptravelfamily.com | Call Today 800-628-0993

DISCOVER TENNESSEE
TRAILS & BYWAYS
EXPLORE THE TRAILS
13'-7"
DISCOVER TENNESSEE
TRAILS & BYWAYS
TNTRAILSANDBYWAYS.COM

Post correspondence to AMERICAN ROAD • PO Box 46519 • Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48046 • letters@americanroadmagazine.com • Letters may be edited for clarity and space. Not all letters are published.

GOT MUPPETS?

I read the "Studebaker Dreaming" article by Robert Klara in the *American Road* Winter 2024 issue. I love how history and pop culture collide! It's amazing how the Studebaker brand, which began with wagons in the 1800s, evolved into such a pivotal part of American automotive history. And the Muppet connection? That's the cherry on top! Who would've thought a Muppet bear would help keep the legacy alive in such a fun way? Definitely a cool tidbit for car enthusiasts and Muppet fans alike.

John Carlos
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Holy Guacamole! The Muppets? You really know how to win a fan's heart having Kermit and Fozzie on the front cover of your Winter 2024 issue!

I went to the first (and probably only) Muppet Fest in Santa Monica in 2001. (It took place in December, rescheduled due to what happened on 9/11.) At that convention, I met all the Muppeteers that were there. (Jim had long since passed, and Frank Oz did not attend.) I got to meet Caroll Spinney at a separate time.

I have seen all the Muppet exhibitions over the decades starting with the *Art of the Muppets* in 1981. And I have been able to see the Henson Studios at the former Charlie Chaplin studios on La Brea Avenue in Los Angeles when seeing *Puppet Up* shows. Truly astounding!

I am a huge Muppet fan and will read this issue cover-to-cover. I hope you mentioned the permanent display at the Museum of Moving Image in Queens and Leland, Mississippi. I see in the index you talk about the Atlanta Puppetry Museum. It looks like you have lots of great photos!

Rena Kiehn
Fremont, California

I received my (Winter 2024) issue of the magazine and—Wow!—the whole issue looks great! I didn't realize you were putting together an entire Muppet-themed issue! I'm loving it! I'm pals with the artist who did *The Muppet Movie* poster art, so I texted him and his wife screen captures. There were smiles all around, so thanks for that!

Chad Frye
Burbank, California

Why are there so many songs about rainbows? I suppose because across the USA, people are singing the praises of *American Road* for tackling a Muppet-themed issue. I know I am! Wocka-wocka-wocka!

I loved the tandem Kermit and Fozzie interview and your focus on *The Muppet Movie* which, in my humble opinion, contains the greatest road anthem ever written in the song "Movin' Right Along."

I also liked the way you tied in the frog theme to other articles in the issue—particularly the Frog Bridge on US 6 in Connecticut, for example. I've never been to Saskatchewan, but if I ever go, I always imagine I will find a Canadian Mountie monitoring traffic on the side of some rural highway—just like Kermit and Fozzie saw in *The Muppet Movie*. I had never heard of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Heritage Centre before I saw it featured in your "O Canada!" department.

I've always wanted to visit the Studebaker Museum precisely because a Studebaker was the kind of car that Fozzie drove. Again, thanks for the issue!

William "Bill" Thomas
Des Plaines, Illinois

MUPPET STYLE: The recently restored 1951 Studebaker Commander from *The Muppet Movie* is today displayed at the Studebaker National Museum.

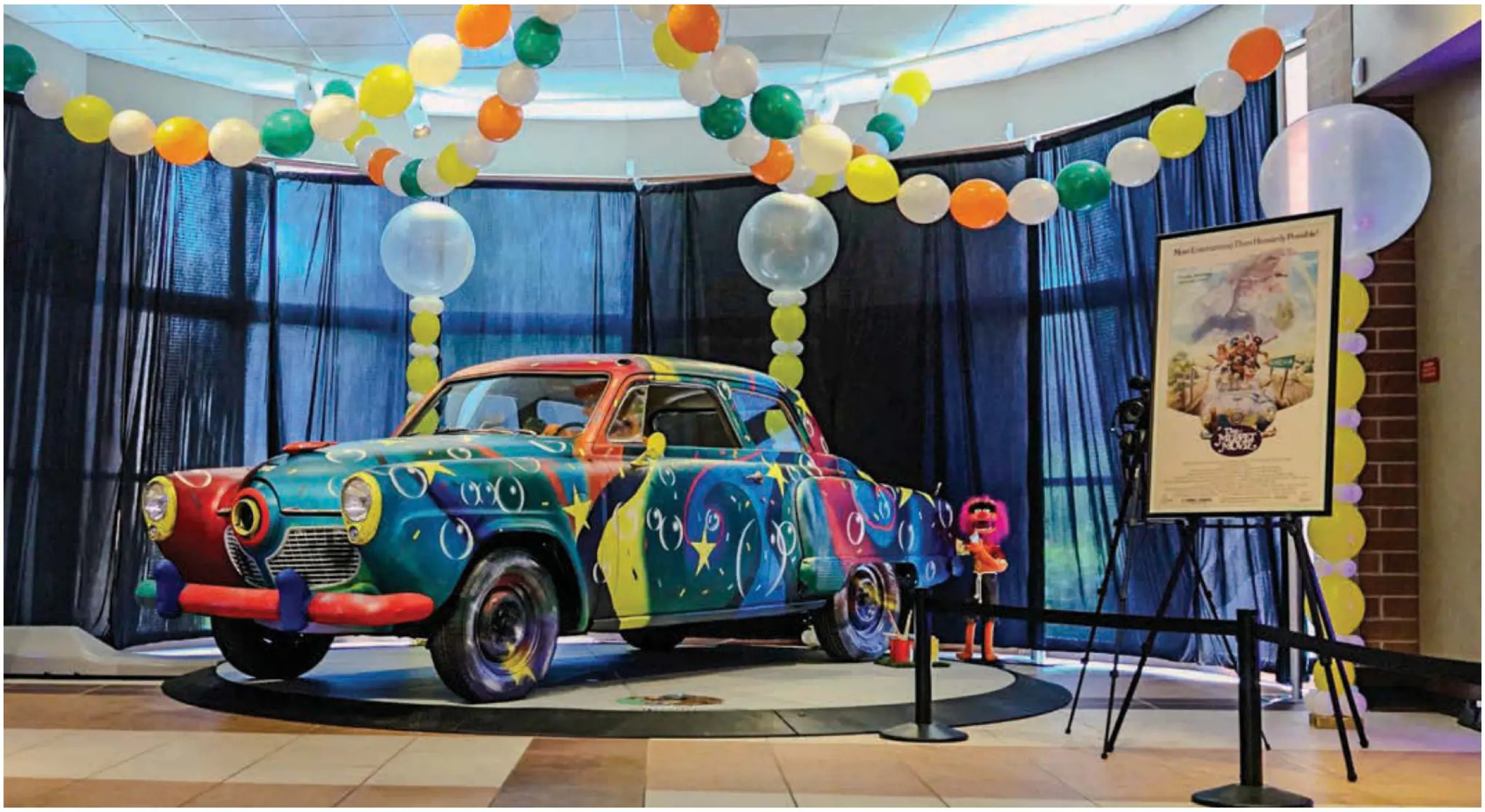
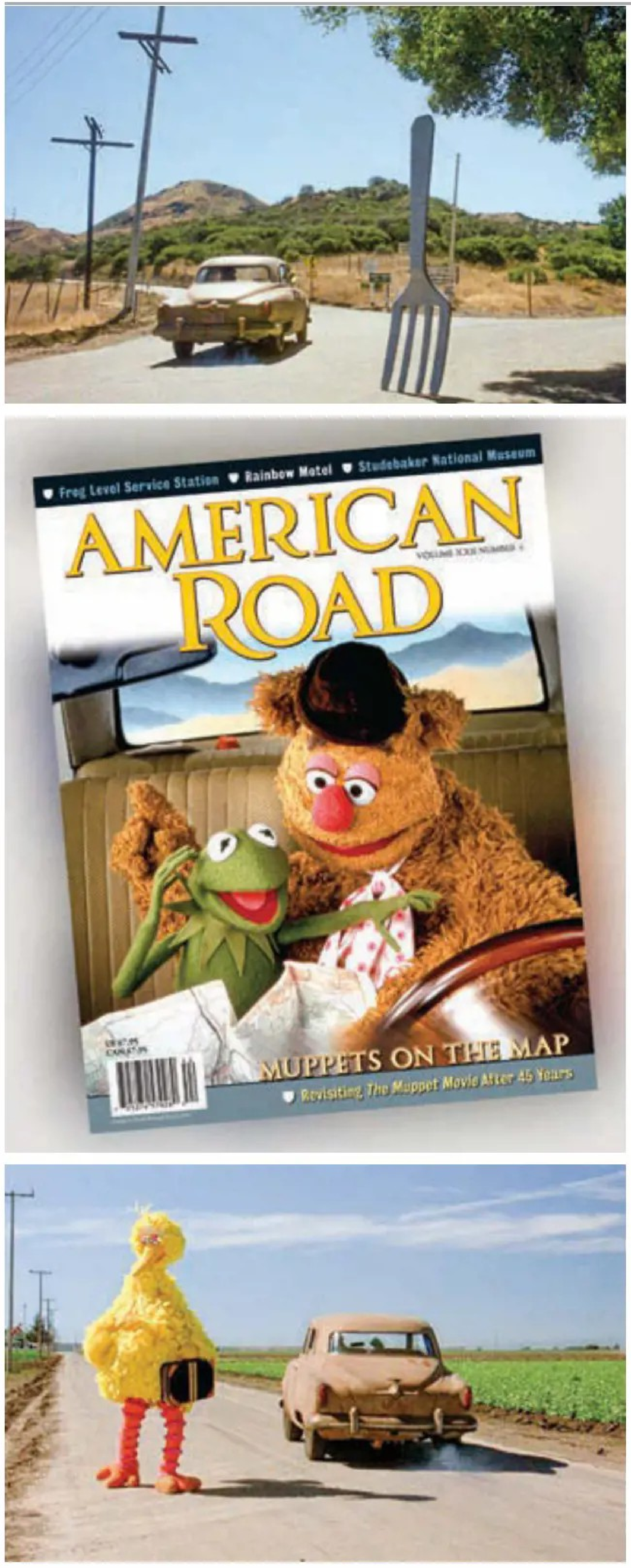


Photo courtesy Studebaker National Museum.


Frog Level Service Station • Rainbow Motel • Studebaker National Museum
AMERICAN ROAD
MUPPETS ON THE MAP
Revisiting The Muppet Movie After 45 Years

OUR GREAT MUPPET CAPER: From forks in the road to the storied streets of Hollywood, our Winter 2024 issue celebrated *The Muppet Movie* and what it meant as a road film and a rousing inspiration to get “Movin’ Right Along.”

AT THE HOP SHOP

I enjoyed your article (that appeared in the your Winter 2024 installment of “Tunnel Vision”) about the disco bathroom at the Valor Oil’s HOP Shop in Verona, Kentucky. When I visited there recently, I didn’t pack my platform shoes or sequined jumpsuit, as suggested in your article. But, I did get my groove on and dance around the bathroom when the tunes started!

Thank you for the tip about this fun rest stop!

Betsie Cook
Peachtree City, Georgia

RETURN TO OZ

My name is Chris Berlino, and I’m the Marketing Director for this year’s Ozland Street Festival in Peekskill, New York—that took place August 16, 2025. This magical, family-friendly event celebrates the arts and imagination through the timeless world of *The Wizard of Oz*.

But this is more than just a themed fair—Peekskill is where the yellow brick road truly begins.

L. Frank Baum, the creator of Oz, lived and went to school here. Many believe our city—with its original yellow bricks still running through downtown—was part of the real-life inspiration for the world he imagined.

That’s why my co-producer Elise and I proudly volunteered with the nonprofit Antonia Arts to raise $5,000 in support of this year’s festival. We pour our hearts into Ozland every year, and we’re passionate about making it grow—not just as a beloved local event, but as a national destination for fans, families, and dreamers from all over to come and experience this magical story in the place where it began.

Now in its fifth year, Ozland draws hundreds of families, artists, and visitors to enjoy free entertainment, Oz-themed games, live performances, contests, local vendors, and storytelling—all in a whimsical celebration of creativity, community, and history.

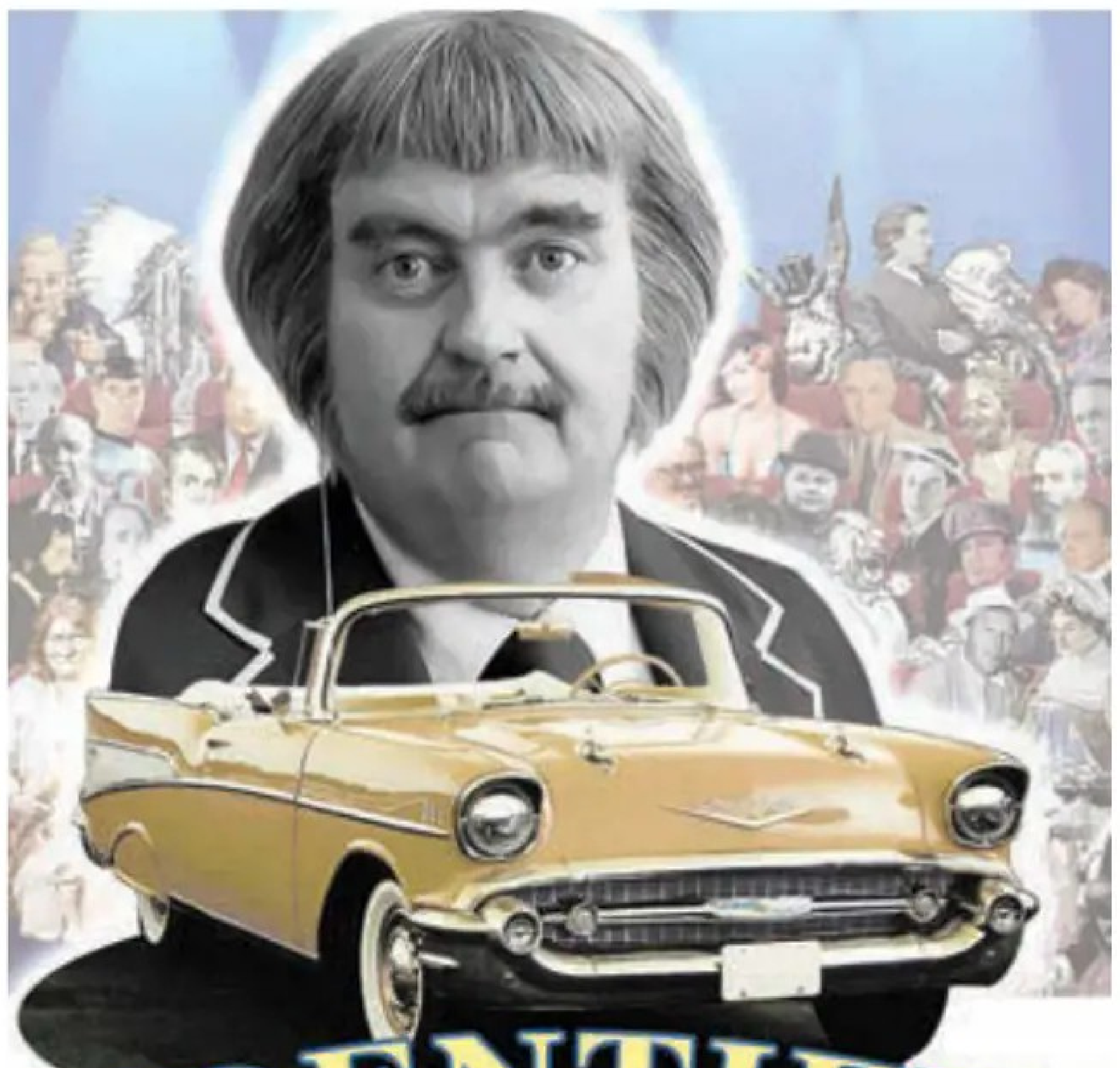
We are honored that *American Road Magazine*, with its deep love for iconic destinations and Americana, provided a charitable donation to help us make this dream possible.

Thank you for all you do to uplift local stories and magical places across the country. We’d be so grateful to partner with you in bringing Ozland to life—and help it grow into something even bigger and more meaningful for years to come.

With warmest thanks,

Chris Berlino/Elise Milner
Marketing Directors, Ozland Festival

Greetings, Chris and Elise. Thank you for all the work you do. L. Frank Baum was a national treasure, and the books he left the world are the kind that teach children and adults that every journey can be the most magical one they’ve ever taken. We agree on philosophies on and off the yellow brick.



IDENTIFY the NOTABLE AMERICAN driving this car

AND YOU CAN WIN FREE PRIZES!

HINT: O Captain! My Captain!
Where has Tom Terrific gone?
Our jeans are no longer green.

HOW TO PLAY!

1) IDENTIFY the NOTABLE AMERICAN who appears above in the car.

2) SEND your ANSWER to:

driving@americanroadmagazine.com
or AMERICAN ROAD, PO Box 46519
Mt. Clemens, MI 48046

The names of all individuals providing correct answers will be entered in a drawing for the prize(s) shown below. One winner will be selected immediately before our next issue goes to press. No purchase necessary. Estimated odds of winning are 1/10,000.

PRIZES THIS ROUND!

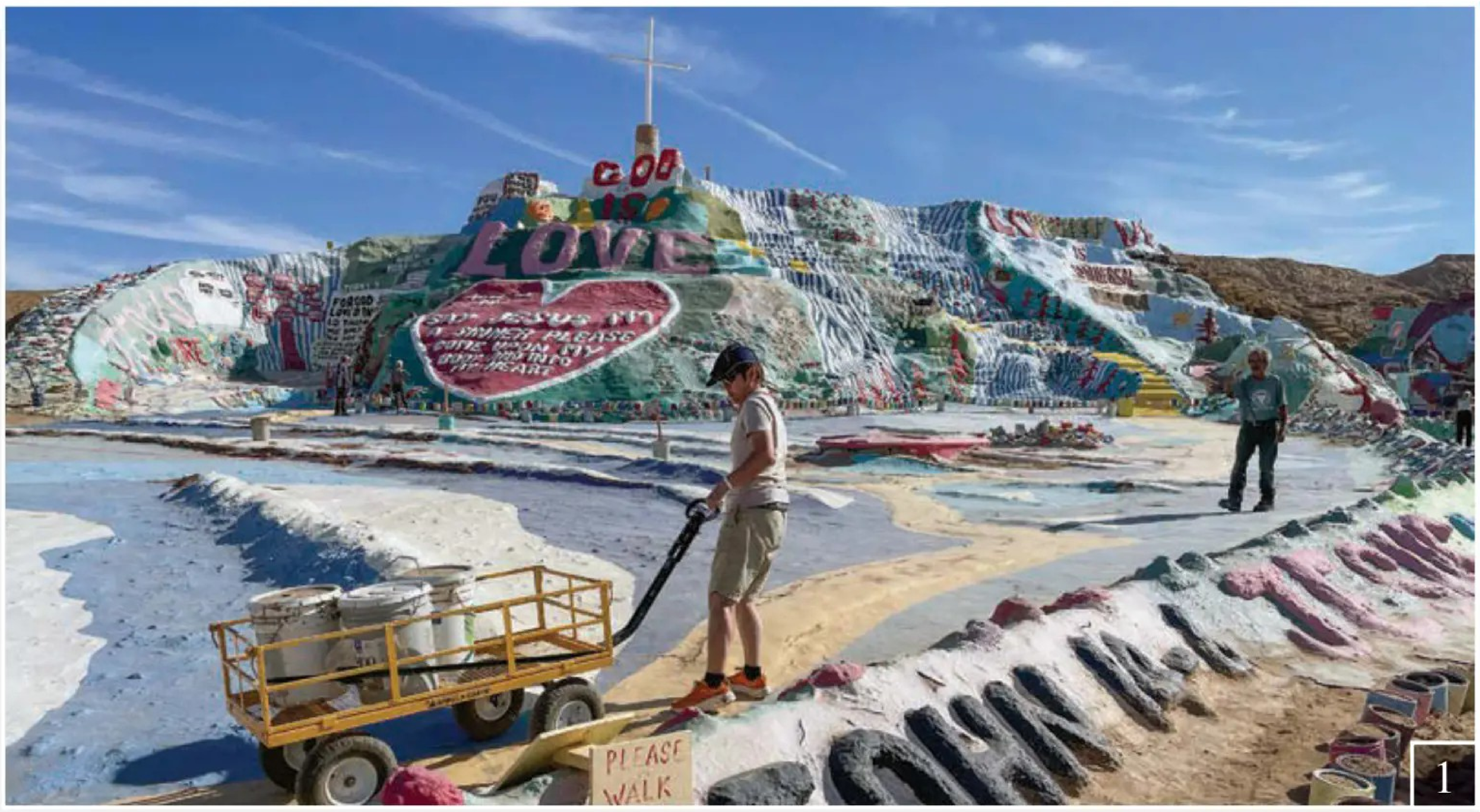
$100 TRAVEL CREDIT
PLUS $25 eGIFT CARD!

Package Retail Value: $125!

The $100 Travel Credit from Access Development can be redeemed at nearly 500,000 popular lodging properties, car rentals, and activities worldwide! Grab some food and save with the $25 Restaurant.com eGift Card!

LAST ROUND’S ANSWER!

Actor Pat Morita played the namesake owner of Arnold’s Drive-In over the first three seasons of *Happy Days*. He was eventually replaced by Al Marino. **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNER PAT SNYDER OF AUDUBON, NEW JERSEY!**



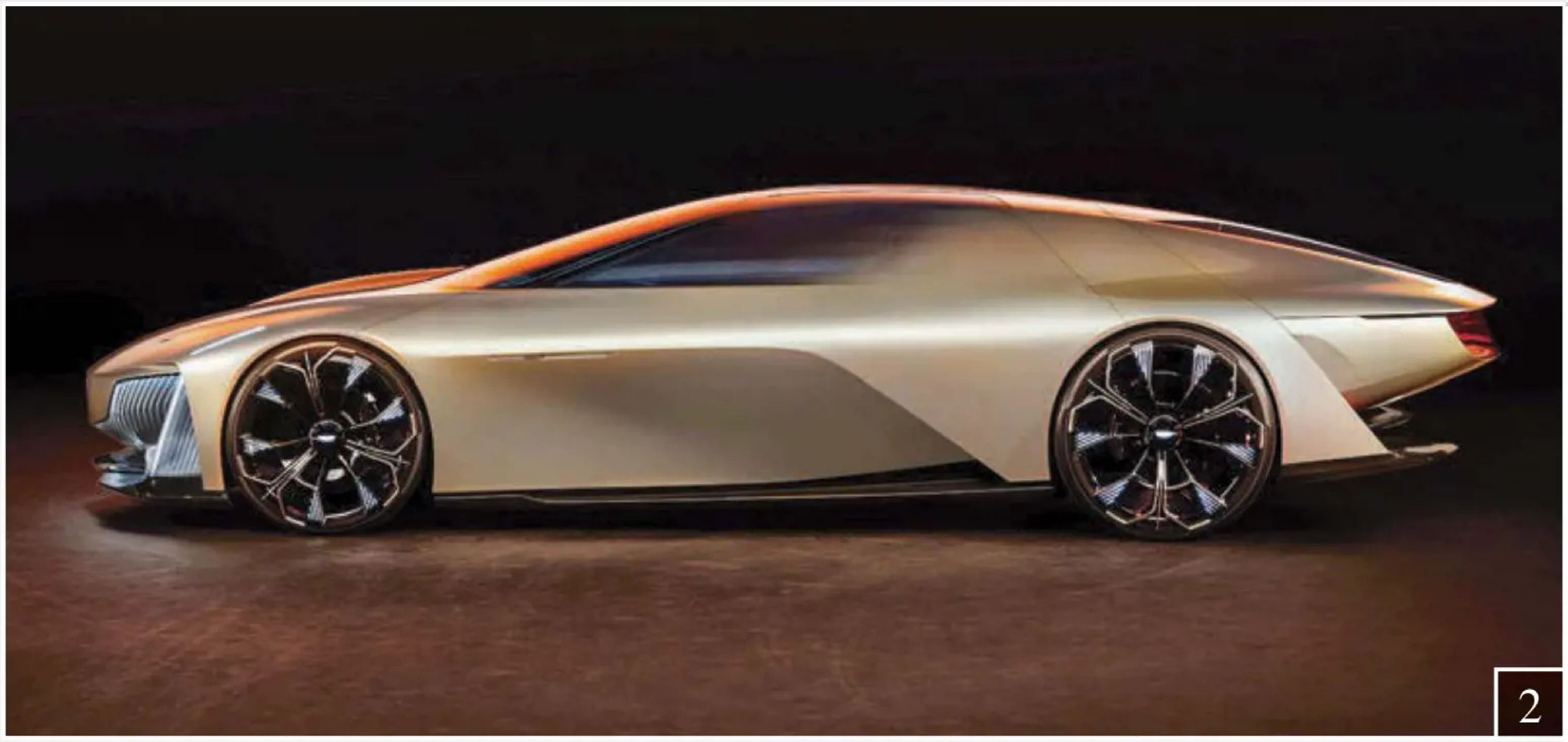
1

(1) THE SPRUCING OF THE MOUNT: A cheerful volunteer at Leonard Knight's Celebration of Life & Work Party, moonlighting as a paint-bucket porter for Salvation Mountain. The three-story textured mound covers about five acres in the desert outside Slab City.

SALVATION MOUNTAIN SEES A LITTLE SAVING GRACE

CALIPATRIA, Calif.—*Thou Shalt Not Neglect Funky Folk Art Environments* may not be a commandment written into the Gospels, but perhaps it should be—at least as a reminder that Salvation Mountain needs upkeep now and then. The cheery hillside in the desert of Imperial County, so thick with hearts and scriptures, was created by late visionary Leonard Knight, who toiled upon its slippery slopes for twenty-five years. It's a monumental achievement—a modern, earthy Tower of Babble aspiring to paradise, fashioned with adobe bricks, rivers of paint, and just as much faith.

Last October, volunteers gathered at the Mount to provide the site with a fresh coat of color. They celebrated Knight's legacy, partaking of his favorite delicacies—pizzas and bananas—which sure sounds like manna from heaven to us.



2

(2) READY FOR TAKEOFF: The Cadillac Opulent Velocity concept vehicle was displayed during the 2025 Detroit Auto Show Media Day at Huntington Place on Friday, January 10, 2025. It boasts a dynamic "ghost car" display on the windshield for track driving.

WHEN CADILLACS FLY IN THE MOTOR CITY

DETROIT—It may not technically fly, but with automatic butterfly doors, the Cadillac Opulent Velocity has wings. This fully autonomous, zero-emissions coupe—featuring immersive luxury (curated art pieces, anyone?) and track-ready performance—soared to the EyesOn Design Award for Best Concept Vehicle at the 2025 Detroit Auto Show. Bryan Nesbitt, executive director of Global Cadillac Design, calls it "an experience-based design study" and "the future vision of luxury performance, incorporating Cadillac's leadership in hands-free driving, electrification, and performance excellence." Can't wait for reality? The $300,000 Karma Kaveya EV won Best Production Vehicle.

Ocean Spray
Eat More Cranberries

3

(3) CRANTASTIC! Festival goers cram Old Town Bandon for three days of its annual Cranberry Festival. Bandon's Ocean Spray cranberry growers enter the Cranberry Festival Parade annually. Their 2024 float featuring CranMan won the blue ribbon.

BANDON, OREGON, IS BERRY BERRY GOOD

BANDON, Ore.—Searching for the sweet life? You can pour yourself a cool red glass of it every autumn at Bandon, Oregon.

Each fall since 1946, this small coastal town swells by the thousands during its annual Cranberry Festival. Cranberries have flourished here since 1885, when farmer Charles McFarlin planted vines he'd brought west from Cape Cod. The bog he established produced cranberries for eight decades.

Highlights of the three-day festival include cranberry necklace-making, car shows and parades, and the VFW's all-you-can-eat breakfast featuring cranberry syrup. There is also a Cranberry Bowl football game—although we can't quite comprehend how that contest is played. How does a quarterback complete a forward pass with such a tiny fruit?

Photo 1 courtesy Salvation Mountain, Inc. Photo 2 courtesy Detroit Auto Show. Photo 3 courtesy Bandon Cranberry Festival.

DISCOVER

SIGNATURE EVENTS & FESTIVALS

HISTORICALLY AWESOME
SINCE 1769
Saint Charles
DISCOVERSTCHARLES.COM
MISSOURI

CONTACT US FOR YOUR
FREE VISITORS MAGAZINE
636.946.7776 | #DiscoverSTC

MISSOURI
VisitMo.com

Heidi Motel
Helen, Georgia

On a slate gray day in late 1968, artist and architect John Kollock wandered through downtown Helen, Georgia, camera in hand. The town, once a lively hub for logging, had fallen quiet. Western false fronts and tired concrete block structures made the small main street feel more forgotten than inviting. Most travelers on their way to the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains breezed through town, maybe stopping for gas, but little else.

Kollock, a watercolorist from nearby Clarkesville, had an idea. While stationed in Germany with the US Army, he had fallen in love with the half-timbered villages of Bavaria. When Helen businessman Pete Hodkinson asked for help breathing new life into the community, Kollock sketched his solution: transform Helen into a Southern slice of the Alps. Steep gabled roofs. Flower-filled balconies. Painted shutters. Timber frames. And above all, *character*.

Within a week, Kollock had produced a set of watercolors imagining Helen reborn. The town embraced this picture, and by early 1969, new zoning laws required alpine-style facades. Soon, a town that had all but faded was drawing families, photographers, and road trippers in search of something unexpected: Bavaria, Georgia-style.

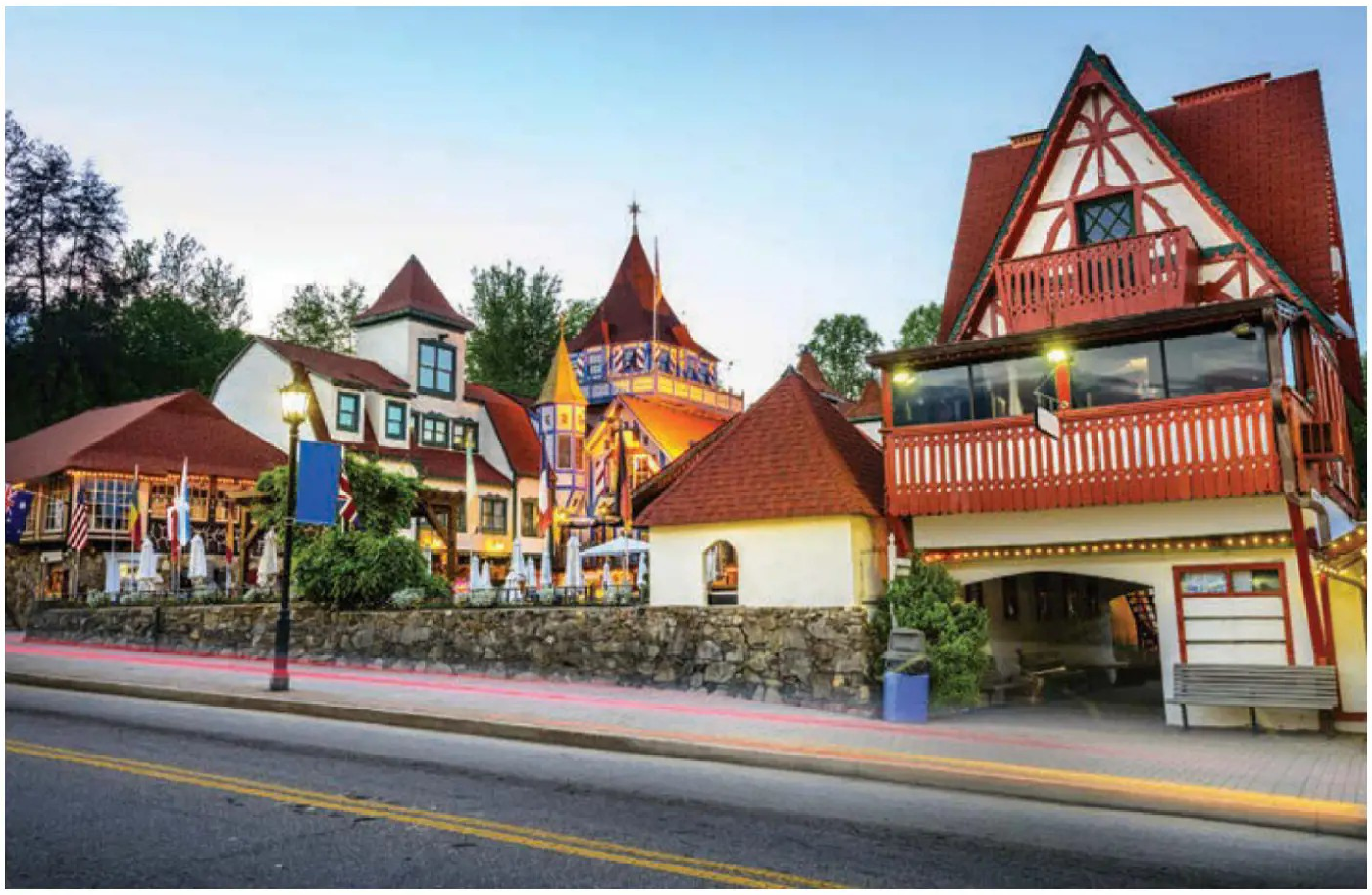
Among the most beloved results of that transformation is the Heidi Motel & Windmill Suites. Drawing inspiration from Johanna Spyri's 1880–81 novel *Heidi*, the motel was designed to evoke a Swiss mountain cottage, with rustic stonework, wood beams, and alpine décor. Its seven-foot windmill stands as one of the most photographed landmarks in town.

But the windmill isn't just for show. It houses guest suites in the tower itself, one complete with a stone-sided hot tub and scenic views of the surrounding Blue Ridge foothills. Other accommodations include additional Windmill Suites with fireplaces— one with a heart-shaped Jacuzzi—and the Bavarian Lodge Master Suite with a full kitchen and extra space. While the exterior architecture sets the tone, the interiors bring the feeling home with knotty pine touches and country charm sweet enough for any mountain girl or guy.

Perched on a hillside across from Betty's Country Store, the Heidi Motel is a favorite among travelers looking for something a little different. Guests highlight the cozy atmosphere, mountain views, and the storybook feel of the windmill itself. A wooden sign at the entrance features Heidi with one of her grandfather's goats, a nod to the inspiration behind the motel's name. Owners Chad and Tyanna Jackson take a hands-on approach to hospitality. "We are American-owned and operated and live on site," Chad says. "We work very hard to make your stay great and really appreciate your business."

In addition to running the motel, the Jacksons operate several other Helen attractions, including Charlemagne's Kingdom, a walk-through German model railroad village, as well as Dukes Creek & Ruby Mines and the Outpost Gold & Gem, where visitors can pan for gold and gemstones. Chad's father, Elmer

COOL CONCEPT: [Below] Helen, Georgia, began adopting its Alpine theme in January 1969, after an area artist suggested to local businessmen that their old mill town might attract new tourists if they painted buildings with Bavarian façades, adding gingerbread trim and cobblestone alleys.



Heidi Motel • 8820 North Main Street • Helen, Georgia 30545 • (706) 878-2689 • heidimotel.com

BY SHERRY HOWARD SALOIS

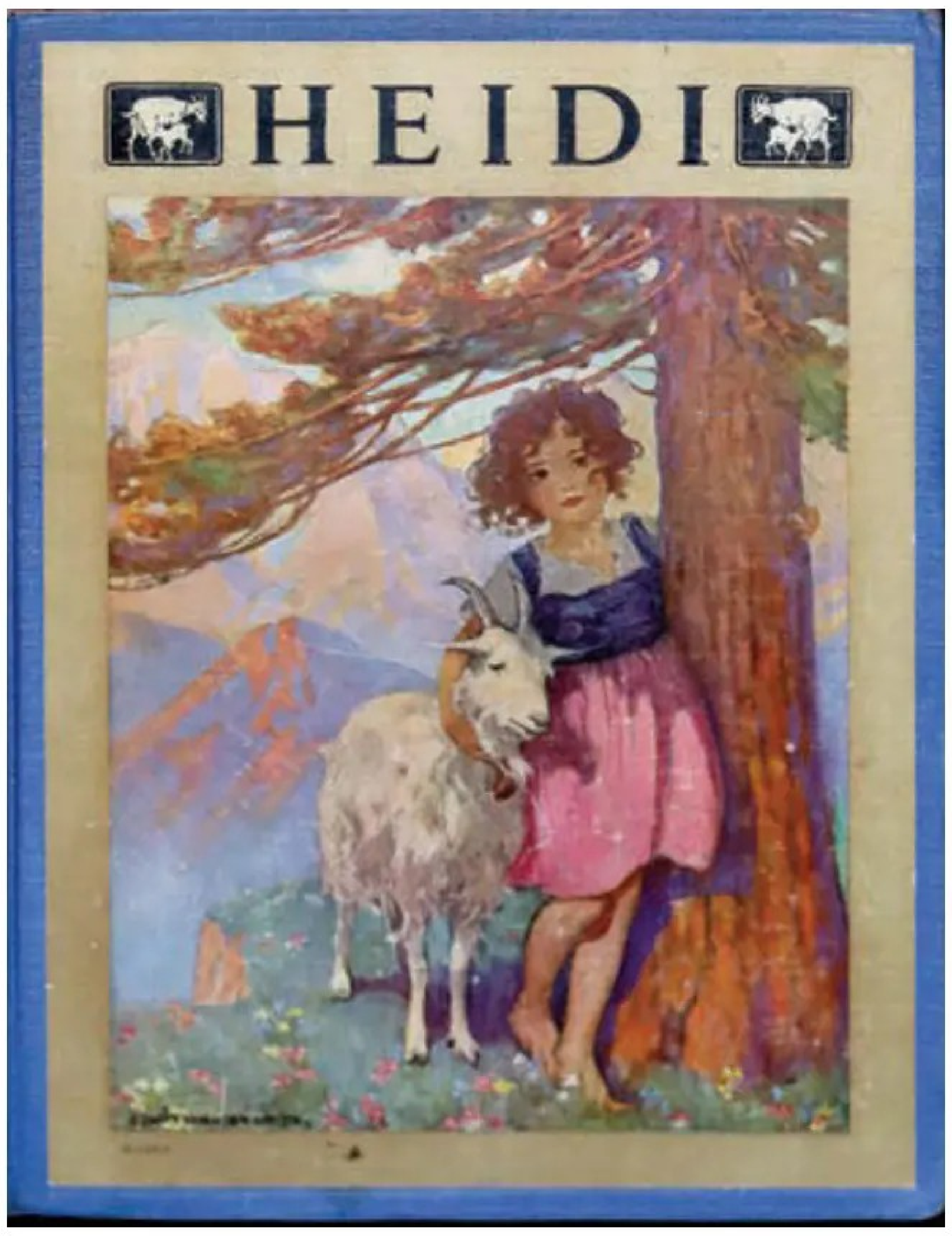
Delton Jackson Jr., founded Dukes Creek & Ruby Mines in the late 1970s, starting with a small sand and gravel operation that grew into a beloved tourist stop. He later founded the Outpost Gold & Gem and also acquired the Heidi Motel, creating a trio of family-run landmarks. Today, Chad continues that legacy, blending family tradition with Helen's storybook spirit.

The motel is within easy walking distance of Helen's candy-colored shops, beer gardens, and festivals like Oktoberfest, Christkindlmarkt, and Fasching. Georgia State Routes 75 and 17 run together through town, guiding travelers into Helen's alpine setting. These winding roads lead through forested hills before revealing timbered rooftops with just enough roadside whimsy to say "this is still Georgia."

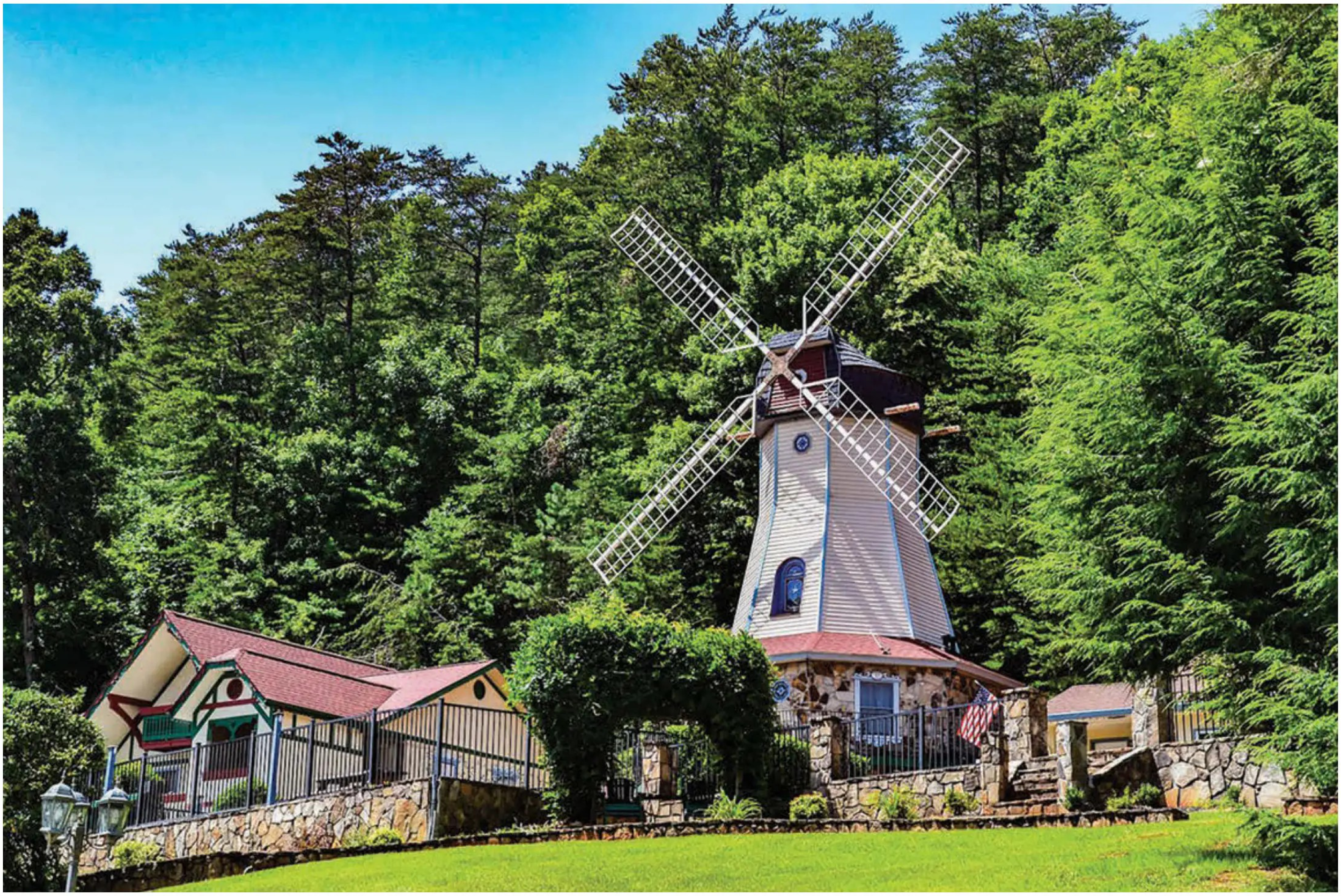
Visitors describe the motel as "quaint" and "cozy," often noting the mountain views and quiet comfort of a night spent in a place that feels part storybook, part time capsule. As roadside motels go, it's anything but generic.

The town, once on the verge of disappearing, has become a destination, thanks to a vision, a paintbrush, and people like the Jacksons.Visitors today can explore that transformation at the Helen Arts & Heritage Center, where a room is dedicated to Kollock's original watercolors. Then, they can settle in at the Heidi Motel, sleep beneath the windmill, and wake to the cool mountain air—living proof that the best detours are often the ones with a story to tell.

SHERRY HOWARD SALOIS is a copy editor at AMERICAN ROAD.



MOUNTAIN CLASSICS: [Above] The Heidi Motel of Helen, Georgia, takes its name from the 1922 children's novel about an orphan girl and her grandfather in the Swiss Alps. [Below] The motel's windmill, in which guests can stay, is the most photographed structure in the city and one of the area's oldest landmarks.



Downtown Helen © Sean Pavone. Heidi Motel photos courtesy Heidi Motel.

National
SCENIC
BYWAY
Foundation

Congratulations

Byway Organization
2025 Award Winners

The National Scenic Byway Foundation recognizes byway success stories and promotes byway program and project excellence through our awards program. For more information, visit https://nsbfoundation.com/about/newsletter.

WELCOME
GREAT RIVER ROAD
Columbus
Columbus Belmont State Park 0.2 MI
Dorena-Hickman Ferry 26 MI
Discovery Park Of America 28 MI

Kentucky GRRO Byway (KY)
Byway Enhancement Award

Great River Road (MS)
Partnership Award

Mohawk Towpath Byway (NY)
Partnership Award

Ohio Scenic Byways (OH)
Leveraging Resources Award

East Tennessee Crossing Byway (TN)
Communications Award

Sequatchie Valley Byways (TN)
Communications Award

Louisiana Byways (LA)
Visitor Experience Award

Ohio Byways Hocking Hills (OH)
Visitor Experience Award

For more byway stories, visit
www.TravelByways.com

SPONSORS

THE CASCADE LOOP
WASHINGTON'S ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP

COLORADO SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAYS

TRAVEL STORYS

OHIO AMISH COUNTRY
HAND-CRAFTED. HEART-FELT.

Boom or Bust Byway

SCENIC DRIVES
& Treasured Heritage Sites

World Heritage Site

Every winding road leads to breathtaking views and fascinating historical sites. Explore ancient earthworks, a 19th-century mansion, and a vibrant downtown filled with charm.

PLAN YOUR EPIC FALL GETAWAY!
(740) 702-7677
VISITCHILLICOTHEOHIO.COM

Visit
CHILLICOTHE ★ OHIO
ROSS COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

https://travelbyways.com

Ohio's Hidden Treasures

Scenic Byways That Inspire

Ohio, often known as the "Heart of it All," is a state brimming with natural beauty, historical charm, and diverse landscapes. What better way to explore this multifaceted state than by taking a journey along its scenic byways? Ohio's scenic byways are a tapestry of picturesque routes that showcase the state's rich heritage, stunning natural wonders, and vibrant communities.

Ohio's scenic drives and byways are more than just roads; they are gateways to exploration, discovery, and a deeper connection with the state's heritage and natural wonders. So, hit the open road, roll down the windows, and let Ohio's scenic byways inspire your next unforgettable road trip through the heart of the Buckeye State.

TUNNEL VISION

NEWS AROUND THE ROAD

Contributors: Matthew Anderson, Cami Becker, Brian Hodge, Kayleigh Powell, Thomas Arthur Repp, and Mark Vernarelli

Mickey Meets Will Rogers

CLAREMORE, Okla.—The Will Rogers Memorial Museum has added a new piece that's sure to rope in a crowd: an original, hand-drawn animation cel featuring Will Rogers lassoing a smiling Mickey Mouse. The cel will be displayed alongside a series of other sketches from the Walt Disney cartoon *Mickey's Gala Premier*, largely donated by a long-time friend of the museum, Gordon Kuntz. According to curator Jennifer Holt, this gift brings the museum one step closer to its goal of obtaining the full collection of these sketches.

Mickey's Gala Premier was produced in 1933. The short film depicts Hollywood elite of the day attending the screening of a Mickey Mouse cartoon at the Grauman's Chinese Theatre. Famous faces caricatured in the film include those of Laurel and Hardy, Joe E. Brown, the Marx Brothers, and Greta Garbo. Near the end of the short, Oklahoma's Favorite Son appears onstage, lassoing a shy Mickey from the wings and pulling him into the spotlight to receive his rapturous applause. Ed Love, renowned for his work on *Fantasia* and many other Disney projects, handled the drawing and animation.

Holt explains that purchasing such a piece is a rare privilege, because they "come up periodically at auction and are bought up immediately." The drawing joins the world's largest collection of Will Rogers memorabilia, which includes movie posters, correspondence, photographs, and artifacts. The museum also screens many of Rogers' films and speeches

This piece will be part of a new exhibit, Aces & Actors, that highlights Will Rogers's many famous friends in aviation and entertainment. His close bond with Walt Disney is covered extensively, with these rare sketches and other unique artifacts available for public viewing. Make sure you swing by soon, as these antique pencil drawings are sensitive to light and will only be on display temporarily.

Whata Anniversary!

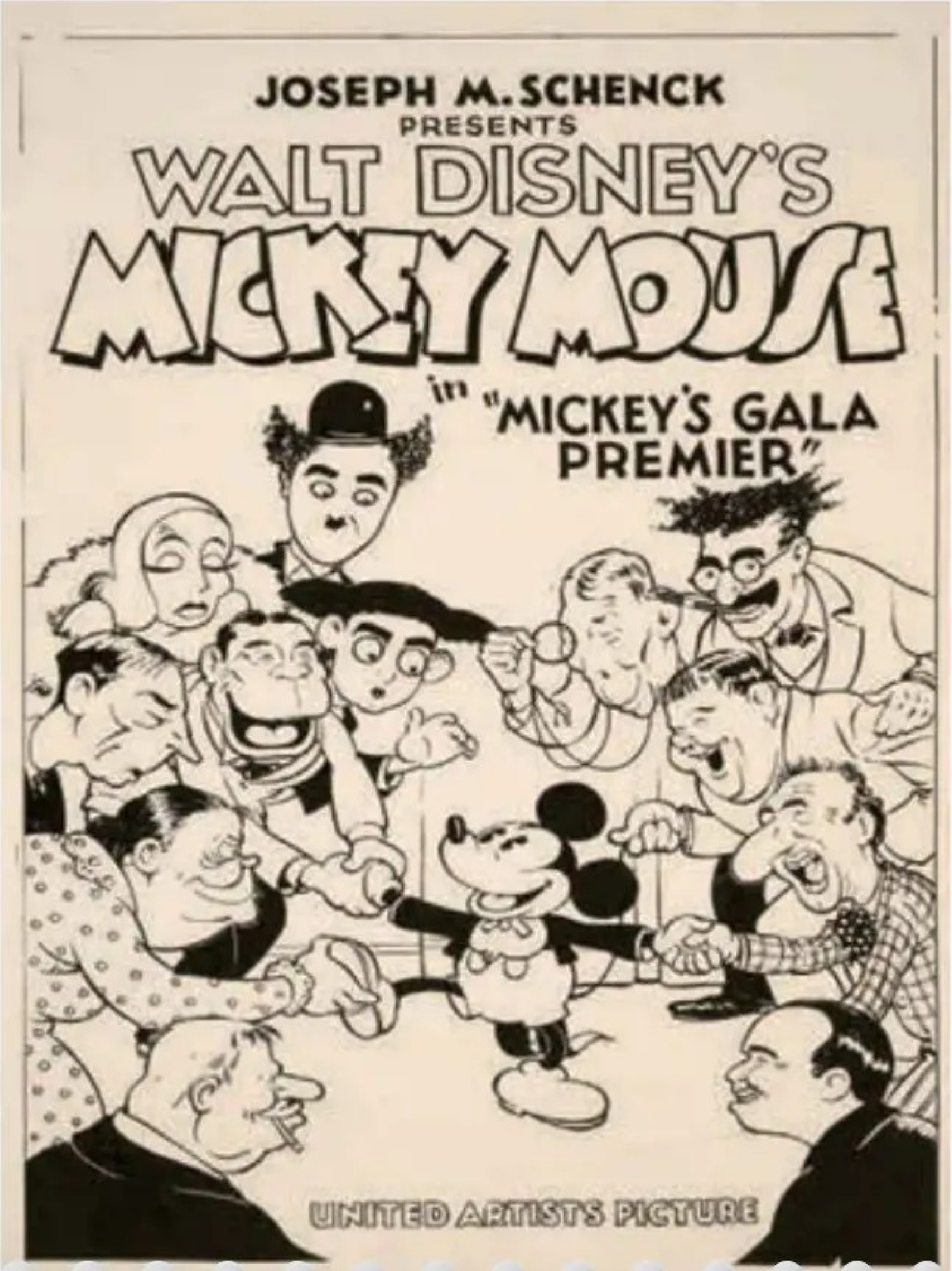
CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas—In 1950, Harmon Dobson's dream was to open a stand in Corpus Christi that served a burger so big, the five-inch bun had to be held in both hands, as the customer exclaimed, "What a burger!"

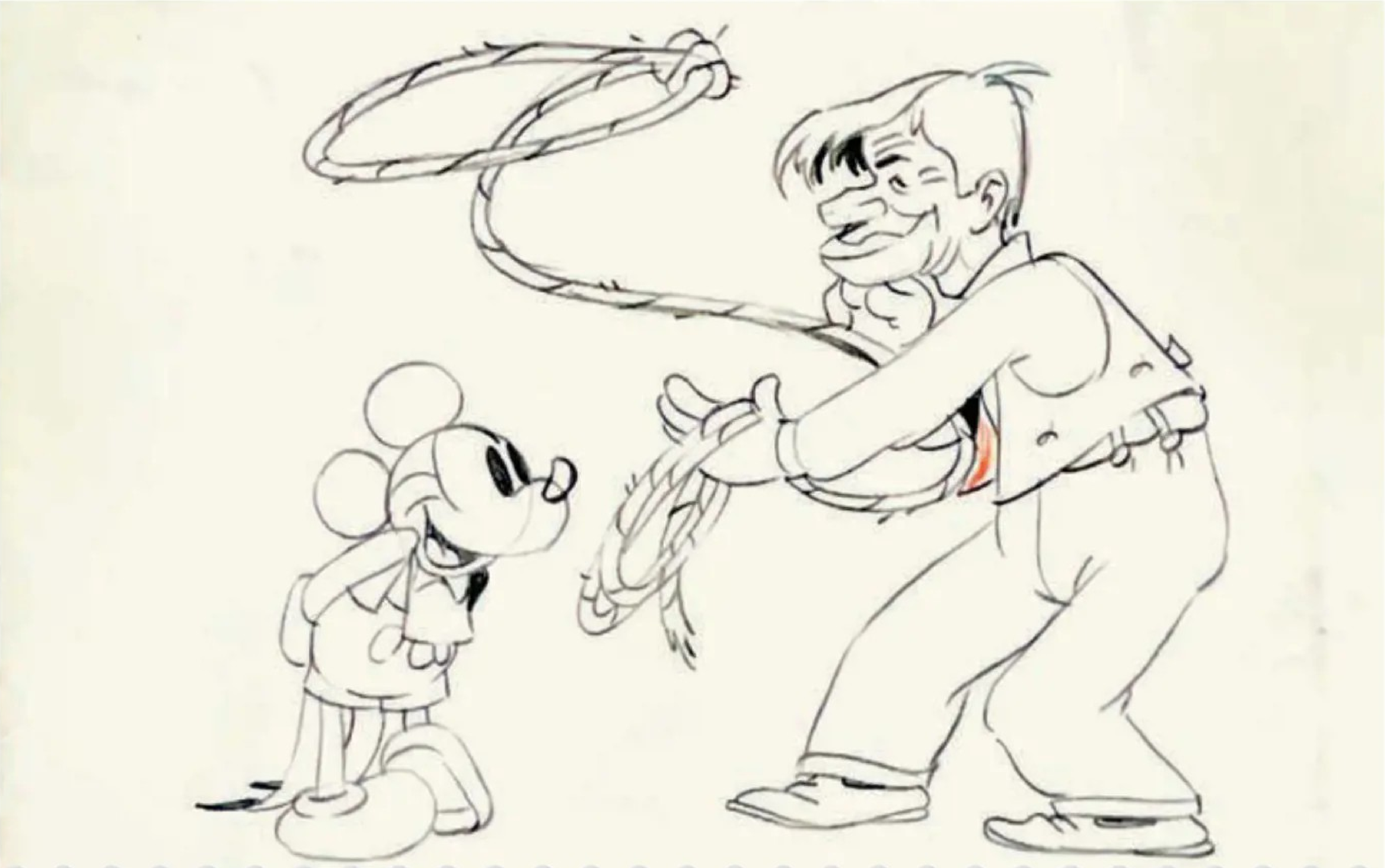
This autumn, Harmon's little burger stand dream is a seventy-five-year-old reality. That single location deep in the Lone Star State has grown into a chain of more than 1,200 restaurants.

Early on, Whataburger sold its giant hamburgers from distinctive A-frame buildings with bright orange and white stripes. In 1973, its squiggly "Flying W" logo was created by Corpus Christi artist Will Clay. By that time, company founder Dobson was no longer flipping burgers: He died in a plane crash in 1967, but his family kept the dream alive. The company opened its three hundredth location in 1980 and its five hundredth location in 1995, making Whataburger the country's eighth largest hamburger chain.

Nowadays, Whataburger's iconic orange letter can be seen in seventeen states, from Arizona to the Carolinas. Texas alone is home to an astonishing 762 Whataburger restaurants. They're open twenty-four hours a day, even serving breakfast overnight, and still make sandwiches made to be held with two hands.

It's a seventy-five-year run that could make you exclaim, "What a story!"





THE MOUSE AND THE COWBOY: [Below] The Will Rogers Memorial Museum is now home to a rare 1933 line drawing of the star with Mickey Mouse. The sketch, created during production of *Mickey's Gala Premier*, is temporarily on exhibit.

Line drawing courtesy the Will Rogers Memorial Museum.

Google Me This, Mr. Serling

GREENSBORO, Ala.—In a scene that could have been scripted as *The Twilight Zone Meets a Construction Zone*, a motorist recently stumbled upon a detour that was not only unexpected but uncomfortably close to home. After trying to log a report about an unforeseen road closure through their satellite navigation, the report instead mysteriously anchored itself not at the blocked street, but at the driver's own home. Stranger still, the next morning an unmarked work zone diversion emerged at the reported site, right outside their house. No workers were in sight, but by 5 a.m. the next day, the barriers were gone.

So what's really going on here? Is GPS steering us into an inattentive oblivion? When the lines between digital maps and real-world roads intersect so completely, who— or what— is actually directing traffic? In any event, Rod Serling would be amused.

Jaws 50 Years Later

LOS ANGELES—Don't look now, but it's been fifty years since Steven Spielberg's toothy movie made millions nervous about jumping into the water at the beach.

To celebrate the half-century anniversary of the release of *Jaws*, the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures is hosting a major new exhibit—the first large-scale display of its kind for a single movie. "*Jaws* the Exhibition" will feature more than two hundred objects, from costumes to concept illustrations and even a prop dorsal fin. The latter may trigger screams like those heard in 1975, when Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw, and Richard Dreyfuss battled a man-eating shark in a northeastern tourist town.

Filmed largely in New England around Martha's Vineyard, *Jaws* became the highest-grossing film of its time and the first true summer blockbuster. Its June release undoubtedly sparked many family discussions on the way to the beach.

The exhibit will run from mid-September 2025 to July 26, 2026, at the Academy Museum in Los Angeles. While you're there, don't miss Bruce the Shark, the sole surviving full-size Great White model from the film. At twenty-five feet long, one glance at him will surely send *Jaws* fans into a shiver as they remember the tense pulsating music—and that menacing dorsal fin.

TEETH TIME: [Below] Director Steven Spielberg, kneeling, points a camera at the mouth of a model shark during production of *Jaws* (1975). "*Jaws* the Exhibition" will run until July 2026 at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures.

The Cuyahoga Choo-Choo

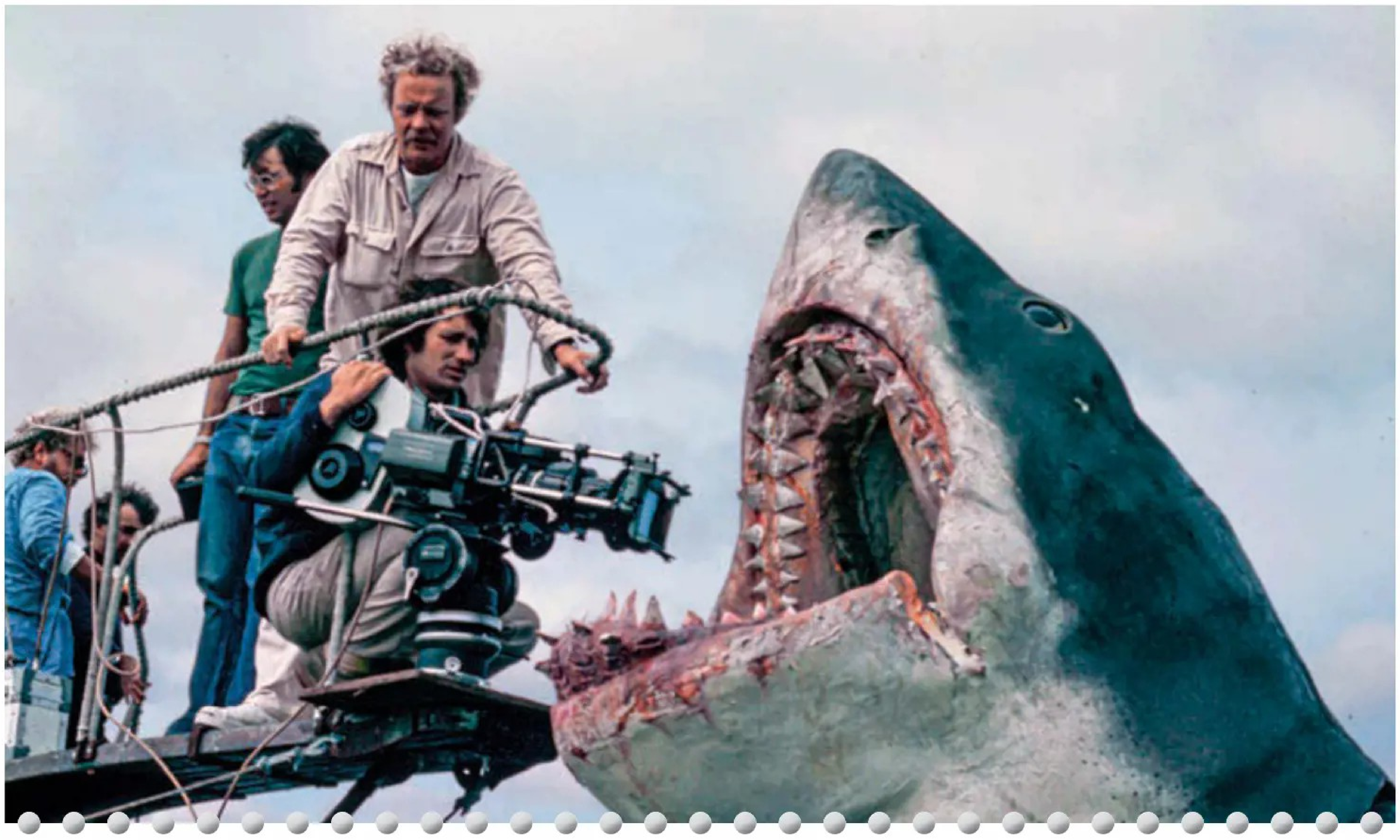
PENINSULA, Ohio—The diesel locomotive puffs out a plume of white steam and lurches forward in a click-clack cadence, off into the heart of Ohio's Cuyahoga Valley. The year is 2025, but you'd be forgiven for thinking it was a century earlier, when trains routinely roared through this bustling corridor between Akron and Cleveland. Today, these cars aren't hauling coal and coke to fuel mills but transporting Coke-sipping passengers in luxurious leisure.

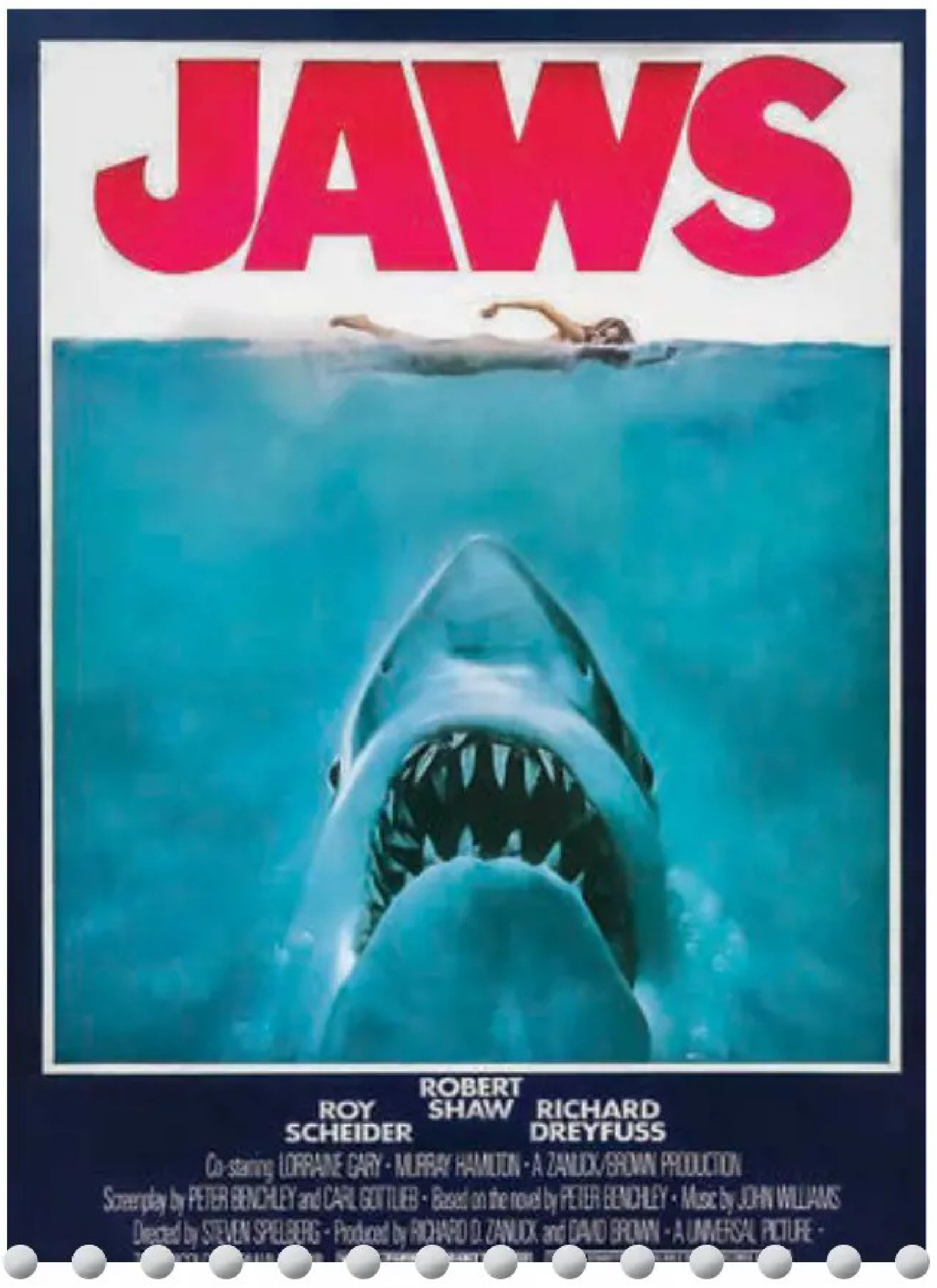
Fifty years ago, a scenic ride through this valley was just a dream in the hearts and minds of local conservationists and an ambitious National Park Service. But this year, the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad celebrates five decades of operation, reclaiming this once heavily scarred landscape for a greener future.

365
365
CUYAHOGA

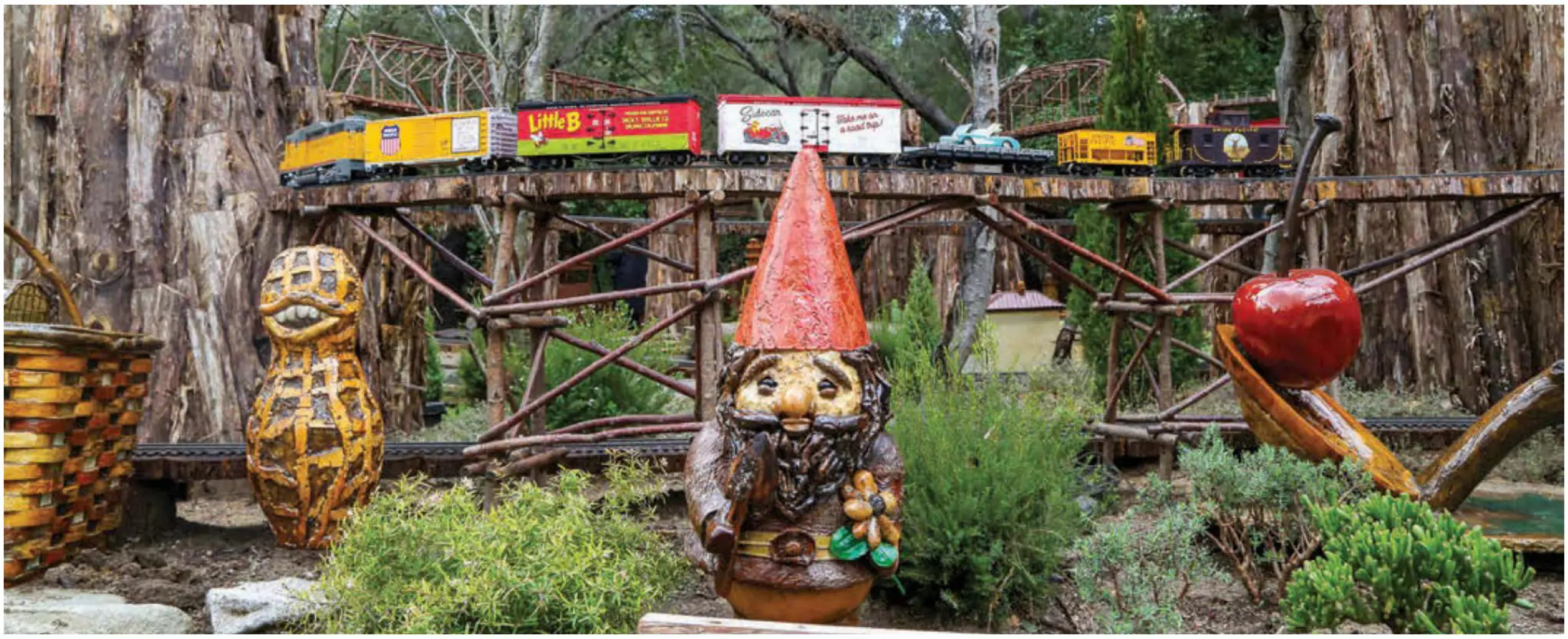
To mark this milestone, the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the railroad are hosting special events and lectures throughout the year. For the full experience, consider booking a ticket and riding the rails, perhaps aboard the National Park Scenic Excursion, where a refurbished California Zephyr dome car winds through spectacular landscapes amid changing foliage. Or bring the family for a North Pole Adventure nighttime train to see Santa, complete with carols, cookies, and cocoa.

The rails are alive again, humming with energy—a testament to perseverance, preservation, and American industry and ingenuity. Here's to at least fifty more years of scenic rail adventures through the Cuyahoga Valley.




JAWS
ROY SCHEIDER
ROBERT SHAW
RICHARD DREYFUSS
Co-starring LORRAINE GARY · MURRAY HAMILTON · A ZANUCK/BROWN PRODUCTION
Screenplay by PETER BENCHLEY and CARL GOTTLIEB · Based on the novel by PETER BENCHLEY · Music by JOHN WILLIAMS
Directed by STEVEN SPIELBERG · Produced by RICHARD D. ZANUCK and DAVID BROWN · A UNIVERSAL PICTURE ·

Steven Spielberg and shark courtesy of Margaret Herrick Library, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



TWO-TWO TRAIN: [Above and below] Roadside attractions featured on the "Road Trip Across America" train include the Jimmy Carter Peanut of Plains, Georgia; Twistee Treat of Orland, Florida; and Randy's Donuts of Inglewood, California.

What Grows On Here?

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, Calif.—Descanso Gardens has long been celebrated for what it grows and where it grows it. Nestled northwest of Altadena in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, it is a leafy Eden on the edge of an urban metropolis, the apple of many a Los Angeleno's eye.

Descanso was established in the 1930s as a private 165-acre ranch. It was founded by newspaper magnate Elias Manchester Boddy, a man crazy for camellias, who by the early 1940s had collected enough of the winter-blooming beauties to form the basis of the gardens' modern Camellia Forest. In 1953, Boddy sold his estate to Los Angeles County to establish it as a public floral park. Its Japanese garden opened in 1966, new buildings were added in 1982, and a five-acre rose exhibit debuted in 1994.

Now, a new attraction is blooming at Descanso—and it's sprouting everything from giant cherries to a Jimmy Carter peanut: "Road Trip Across America," an art installation arranged along the tracks of the gardens' outdoor G-scale model train. The scenic miniature experience is precisely what you'd hope it would be—a homage to the odd attractions and programmatic buildings that lure so many traveling families on detours.

The quirky recreated structures include Seguin, Texas' World's Largest Pecan (debatable, but they were first), Randy's Donuts in Inglewood, California, and the Dole Pineapple Tower, which loomed over Honolulu from 1928 to 1993. One of the cherries sits atop the ice-cream swirl of the Twistee Treat from Orlando, Florida; the Jimmy Carter peanut is a replica of the wide-smiling legume statue from Plains, Georgia.

Many more Easter eggs are hidden alongside the tracks, but we won't spoil the surprises. Visit Descanso Gardens to count how many roadside attractions you recognize—and thank your parents for having dragged you to them.

Halloween I-17: The Sequel?

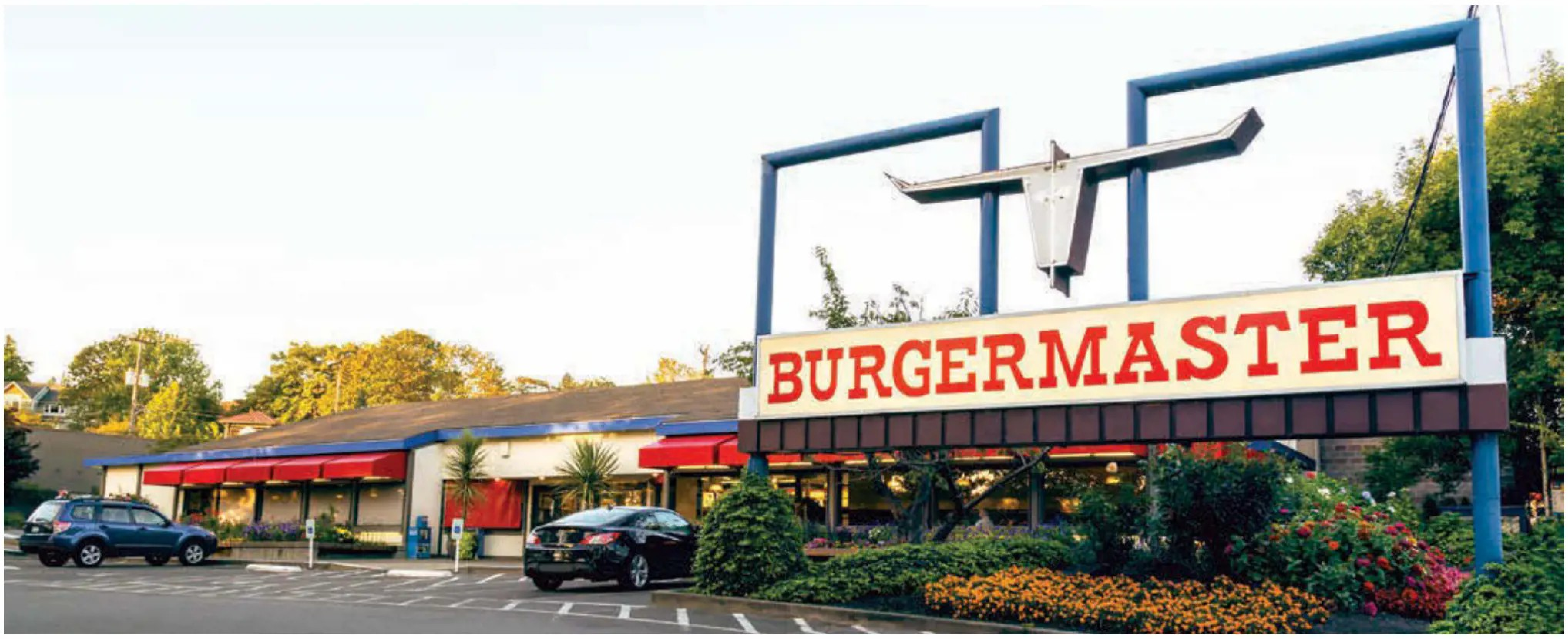
BLACK CANYON CITY, Ariz.—The slasher movie franchise *Halloween* now tallies thirteen films, but the question on everyone's mind seems to be "Will bogeyman Michael Myers appear on Interstate 17 again this year?"

Last October, it was Arizona driver Ryan Blauvet who captured the spectacle on a dash-cam. Stuck in a traffic jam that seemed to drag on as long as the latest Director's Cut, he was shaken awake when he saw something creepy sneaking around the stopped cars. It was a man, dressed like and uncannily resembling the hulking villain from *Halloween*. Armed with a prop knife, he was choreographing his own jump-scares by poking his face into windshield after windshield. Blauvet got it all on video, then posted the footage on Facebook and caused a national stir.

And now frightened people are asking the questions they don't want to ask: *Will Myers return this All Hallows Eve? Will he bring the big knife again?* And *Just what the hell do we have to do to get rid of all this damned traffic on I-17, anyway?*

INTERSTATE
17

Photos courtesy Descanso Gardens.



Bye-Bye, Burgermaster

SEATTLE—The original Burgermaster wasn’t just a restaurant. It was a place to celebrate, mourn, and experience life’s ups and downs over cheeseburgers. Like so many longtime hangouts, it was made to make memories.

Roy McReady, father of longtime Pearl Jam guitarist Mike McReady, had a booth reserved for him there. (He ate at the restaurant nearly every day.) The “Boys in the Boat” regatta team made famous by their victory in the 1936 Berlin Olympics (and George Clooney’s 2023 biopic about that triumph) had an entire room dedicated to them. An ancient oar emblazoned with the University of Washington logo hung on a wall. Many rowers were regular customers, as were Seattle-area celebrities such as baseball’s Jay Buhner, football’s Kam Chancellor, and Microsoft’s founder Bill Gates. (The PC wizard once kept the phone number for Burgermaster on his speed-dial, or so we are told.)

That’s all over now. The parking lot of the original Burgermaster is empty. Its land is slated to be covered with condominiums. The Burgermaster sign—the one with the looming, white-neon steer’s head that lit the way for college students sneaking a Tom & Jerry shake between study breaks—will be moved to another location: After seventy-three years in business, the original Burgermaster has lost its property lease to redevelopers.

The eatery opened in 1952. It was founded by World War II veteran Phil Jensen and his wife, Mary, who made it their mission to serve high-quality burgers at prices even college students could afford. Located directly across Northeast 45th Street from the U-Dub main campus, it became a fixture of undergraduate (and graduate) life for generations. As the restaurant’s time came to an end, loyal patrons scavenged it for mementos, carting away bench seats, branded food trays, and even pothos plants.

The Burgermaster chain still operates in five other locations in Washington State, which means fans can still score a Double Burgermaster sandwich or one of those famous Tom & Jerry shakes.

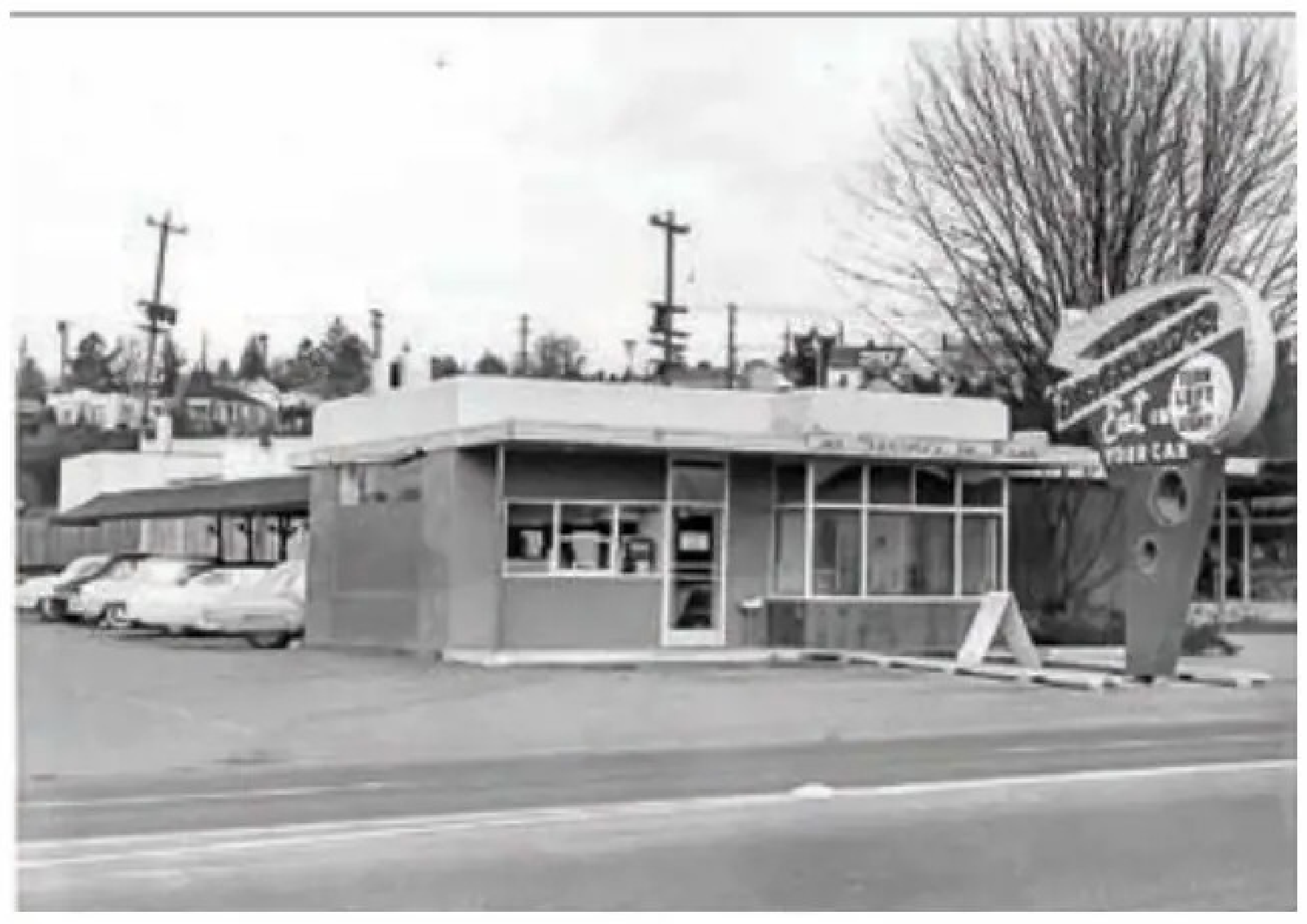
“The Tom & Jerry shakes are vanilla and eggnog with nutmeg on top,” says *American Road* founder Thomas Arthur Repp, who confesses to having frequented the original Burgermaster often when he was on fellowship at the UW. “Oh, the memories….”

I-83 Hotdog Horror

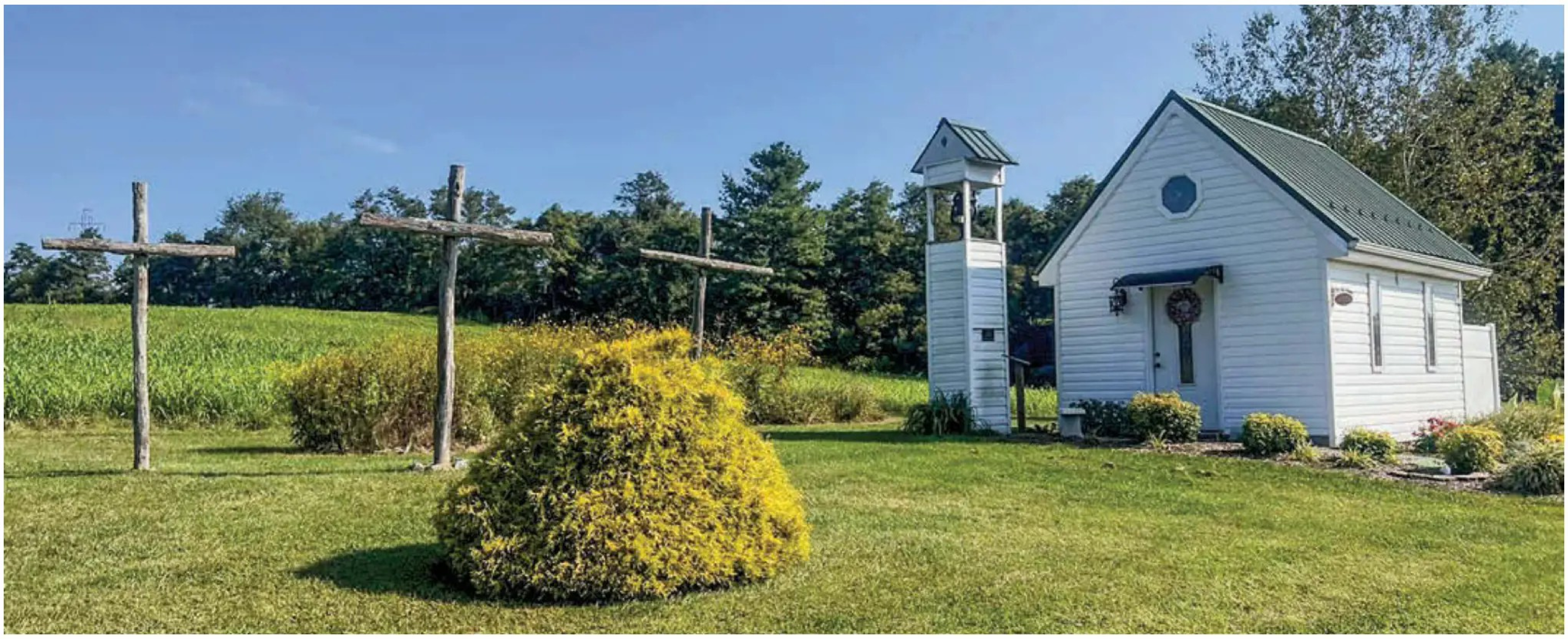
SHREWSBURY, Pa.—In what can only be described as the most delicious disaster of the year, Interstate 83 in Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania, turned into a frankfurter freeway on August 1. A food tractor trailer carrying an unspecified amount of hotdogs scraped a concrete divider, causing the trailer to tear open and dump its cargo across multiple lanes, clogging the road in both directions. Some commuters called it a “Wiener Wonderland”—minus the fun.

Emergencies crews used a front-end loader and a dump truck to scoop up and remove the mess. While they worked, authorities advised drivers to steer clear of the accident site “unless they were craving a snack.”

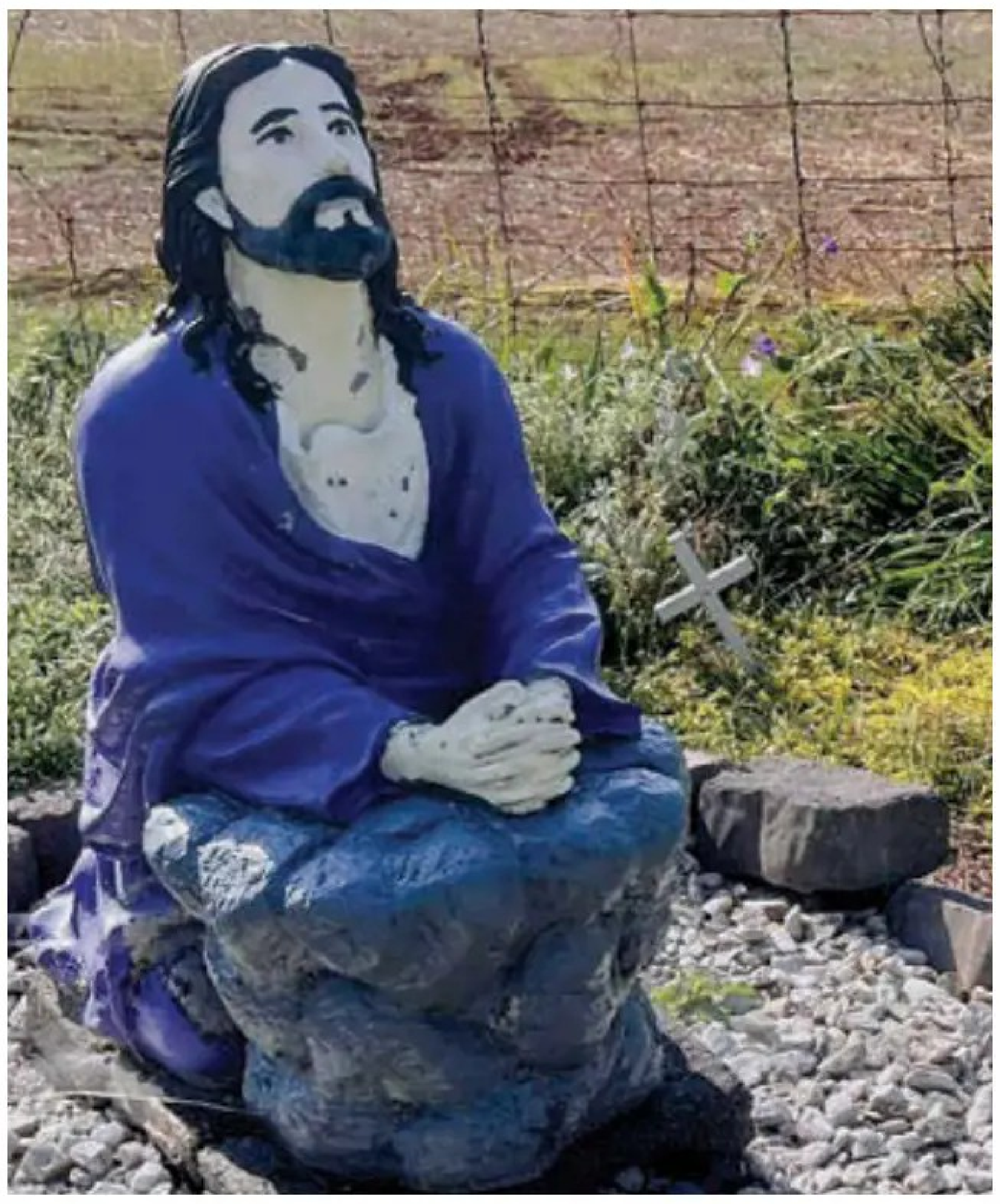
WHERE THE COLLEGE KIDS ROAMED: [Above and below] The original Burgermaster, located across Northeast 45th Street from the University of Washington, was the chain’s only location with indoor seating. It closed last February.

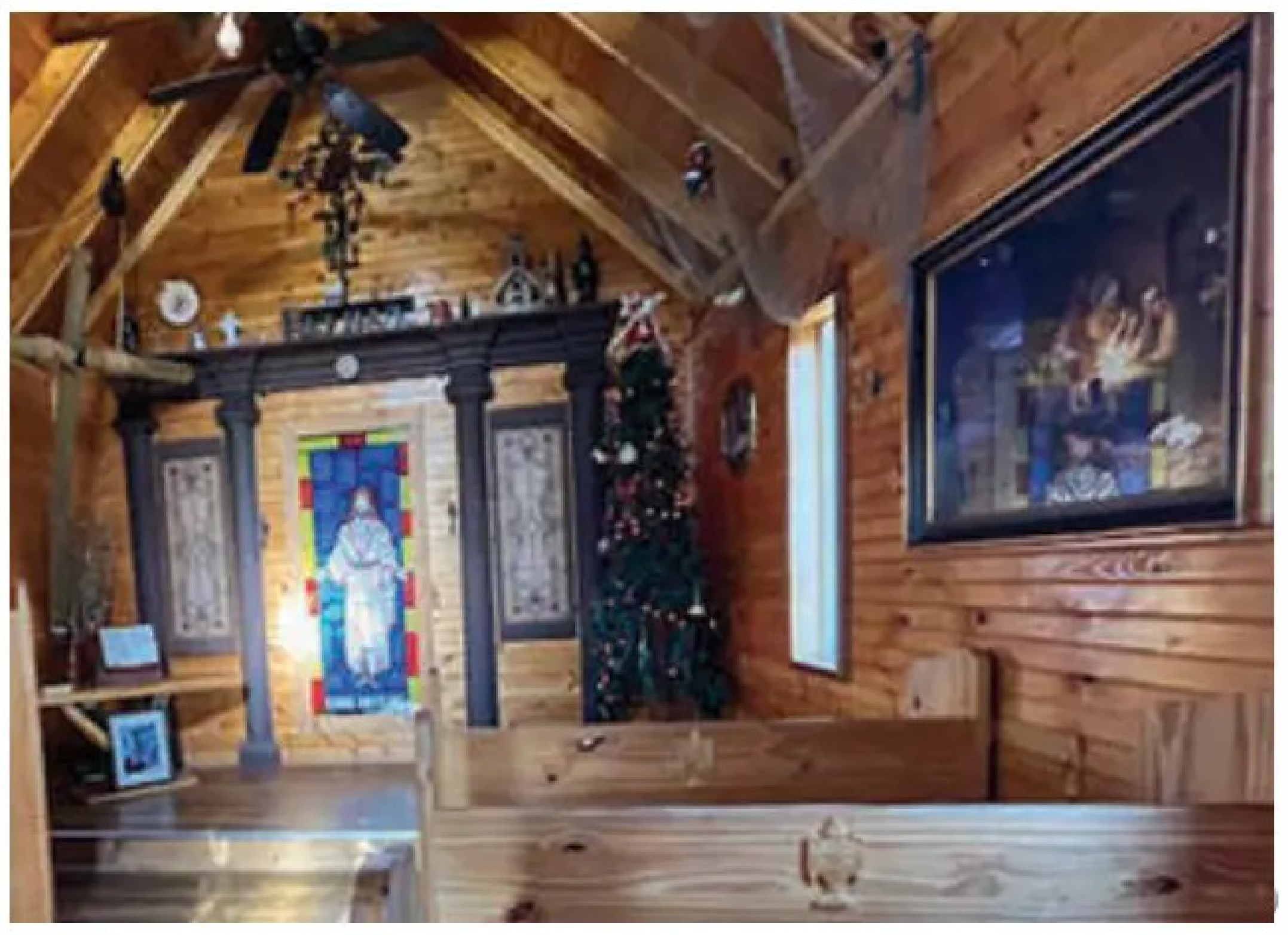


Photos courtesy Burgermaster.



WEE HAVEN: [Above and below] "Wytheville's Smallest Church," which seats six, is one of the tiniest churches in America. Inside the wee sanctuary, visitors find handwritten prayer requests and scriptures pinned to a bulletin board.





Little Church, Big Impact

WYTHEVILLE, Va.—Whizzing along on Interstate 77 past the eastern edge of Wytheville, Virginia, you might catch a glimpse of what appears to be a white clapboard church, although the structure seems no bigger than a backyard shed. If you exit the superslab and loop back on a parallel two-lane road, you'll find your eyes were not deceived: The building *is* a church—just a very small one.

The sanctuary—which (tiny surprise) calls itself "Wytheville's Smallest Church"—will celebrate its fifteenth anniversary in December of this year. The twelve-by-seventeen-foot chapel sits roughly an hour north of the Tennessee state line. In 2010, its construction was inspired by a similarly petite house of worship located in Townsend, Georgia. Inside its sacred space are four tiny pews and a gorgeous stained glass window. Outside, a modest bell tower and a meditation garden provide stunning views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Visitors from all fifty states and beyond have signed the guest book, which logs approximately 1,500 entries a year. Guests find no hint of any denominational affiliation, nor any formal church service. Still, church co-founder Brian Wolford says he knows each one is blessed when they sit and reflect.

"I feel," says Wolford, "that this has been a part of why the chapel has so many visitors. The visit is strictly between the person and the Lord. Just the way it should be.

"We, along with so many, continue to feel His presence upon every visit. We have heard so many stories from folks that visit—even daily—about what the humble environment has afforded them."

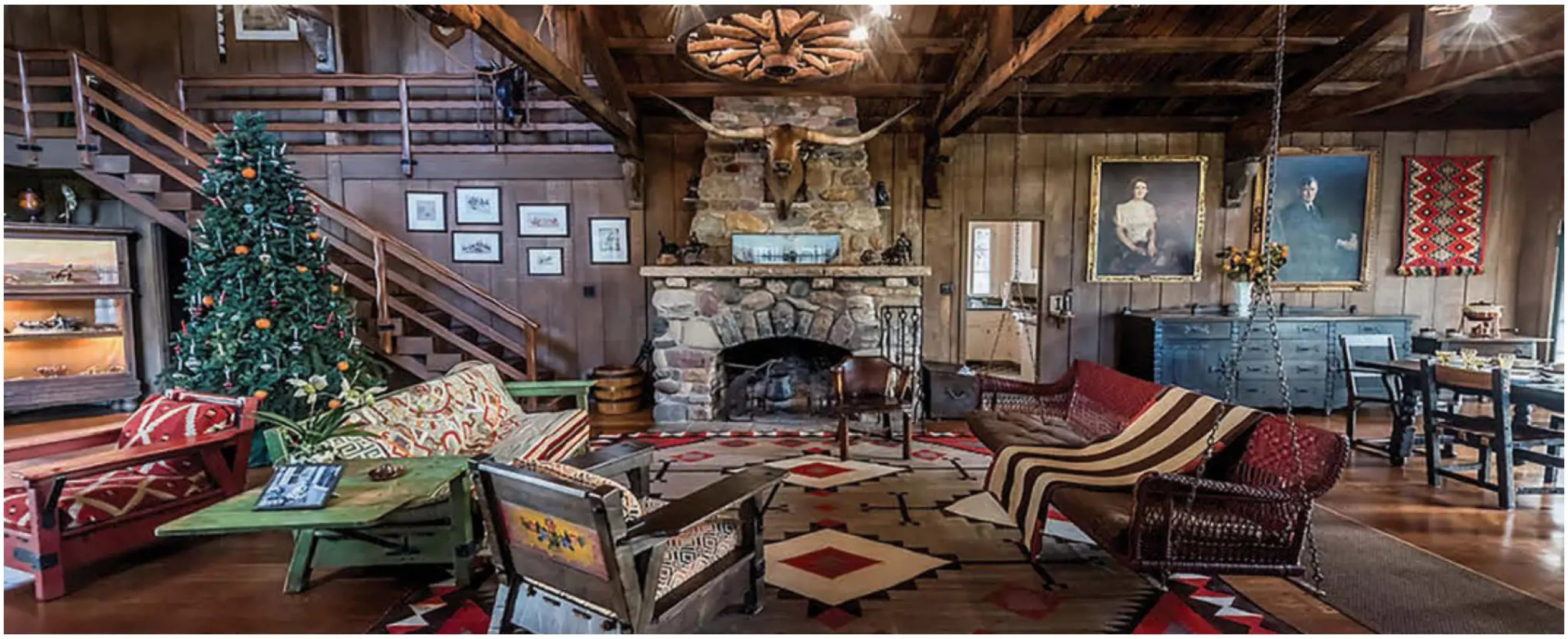
Voy 61 Celebrates Its 75th

MAQUOKETA, Iowa—Highway 61 may be known as the Blues Highway, but this year, travelers have a reason to sing a happy tune: The Voy 61 Drive-In Theatre is celebrating seventy-five years of showing movies under the stars. Opened in 1950 with a screening of the Loretta Young comedy western *Rachel and the Stranger*, the theatre took on its present name in 1972, after Voy family patriarch Dennis Voy bought it over a cup of coffee. Tradition says he never intended to get into the movie business—he already owned the local radio station—and some of that stuck. To this day, the Voy 61 rents portable radios from its concession stand.

Let's Eat Waffles in Kansas

LINDSBORG, Kans.—"Waffle like it's Hot!" That's what Little Sweden, USA, did for *Våffeldagen* (Waffle Day), a celebration that was "waffle-y delicious." Thousands of local and visiting wafflers enjoyed an array of treats—Belgian waffles with maple whipped cream, sugar-coated waffles with fresh fruit, chicken and waffles, fajita waffles, waffle cones, and even waffle-themed shots. "If you show up from out of town, and we have a costume to put you in, we will let you be a roaming waffle person," says committee member Tara Killingsworth. "It's just a very organically fun day for everybody. They have a sugar high going on."

Photos courtesy City of Wytheville. Interior by Mark Vernarelli.



A Will to Rebuild

PACIFIC PALISADES, Calif.—Oklahoma humorist-turned-Hollywood movie star Will Rogers once said, "The best way to make a fire with two sticks is to make sure one of them is a match." As it turns out, a couple of Roman candles, a pair of bottle rockets, or even two sparklers carelessly used might just as easily kindle a conflagration—and that ain't no joke: Authorities believe that humble fireworks sparked the Palisades Fire that ravaged Los Angeles last January, consuming nearly 24,000 acres and destroying well over six thousand structures—including Will Rogers' former ranch house.

The home, a popular starting point for hikes within Will Rogers State Historic Park, was built as a six-room weekend cabin in 1928, after Rogers purchased nearly two hundred acres within the Santa Monica Mountains. In the years that followed, he expanded the residence until it became a thirty-one-room mansion and veritable museum of Western lore. Its living room—with paneled walls, open beams, and a porch swing suspended from its ceiling—was dominated by a fieldstone fireplace surmounted by a longhorn steer's head. Spurs, baskets, branding irons, and lariats decorated walls and balconies—some leftovers from Rogers' popular vaudeville act.

CALIFORNIA
1

The most peculiar item on display was the stuffed calf on castors that Rogers used for roping practice. "Will used to rope every visitor coming in the door," a reporter for New York's *Buffalo Courier-Express* noted in 1962, "and an artist crony finally presented him the calf with the plea, 'Here, rope this, not me!'"

Last January 7, as the Palisades Fire swept toward the ranch house, frantic park staff members moved what they could into four pickup trucks. Thanks to their hurried efforts, many smaller items, such as Rogers' boots and a first-edition set of L. Frank Baum's Oz books, were saved from the blaze. But the larger furnishings—the Philippine mahogany dining table, hand-cranked barrel piano, and aforementioned little stuffed roping cow—went up in smoke. The ranch house and nearby stables were reduced to piles of smouldering rubble with naked brick chimneys poking up at the sky.

Fortunately, the Will Rogers Ranch Foundation has already announced that it will undertake to rebuild the property. Plans are already underway to reconstruct the ranch house and other structures on the grounds. Once a new house is completed, surviving treasures will be returned and displayed—including Rogers' personal typewriter on which the cowboy-philosopher composed installments of his nationally syndicated newspaper column *Will Rogers Says*.

"We lost a ton," docent Larry Nemecek admits. Park staff, however, are refusing to focus too dearly on what is gone. After all, Rogers himself also famously said, "Don't let yesterday use up too much of today." And where the rebuilding of his ranch house is concerned, we're confident he would agree with the tweaked maxim: "Where there's a will, there's a way—even if you begin with only two sticks."

WILL REMEMBER: [Above and below] Will Rogers' ranch house, located at 14253 Sunset Boulevard in the Pacific Palisades, is no more. The thirty-one room residence-turned-museum was burned in the Palisades Fire of January 2025.

Photos courtesy Will Rogers State Historic Park.

Old Signs, New Shine in Amarillo

AMARILLO, Tex.—Coffee still runs ninety cents a cup, and if you've got a hankering, you can smoke in the dining room.

"Things change," Cattleman's Club & Cafe bartender Lacey Barker told a local TV station. "This place hasn't changed."

The old steer-shaped sign out front could use an update, though—you can hardly read it through the rust. While the speed limit on US Highway 66 is thirty-five miles per hour, you'd have to slow to a mosey to catch the restaurant's specialty: steaks.

Nobody's putting the steer-shaped sign out to pasture just yet. With a $145,000 grant from the Texas Historical Commission—matched by city funds—Amarillo is restoring two classic Route 66 neon signs: the Cattleman's Club sign and a second at nearby Eastridge Lanes, a bowling alley.

The retro Cattleman's, with its built-in booths and wood dance floor, looks much like it did when it opened in the 1950s. Jeanie Campbell has kept it that way since buying it from the founder's daughter in 1982.

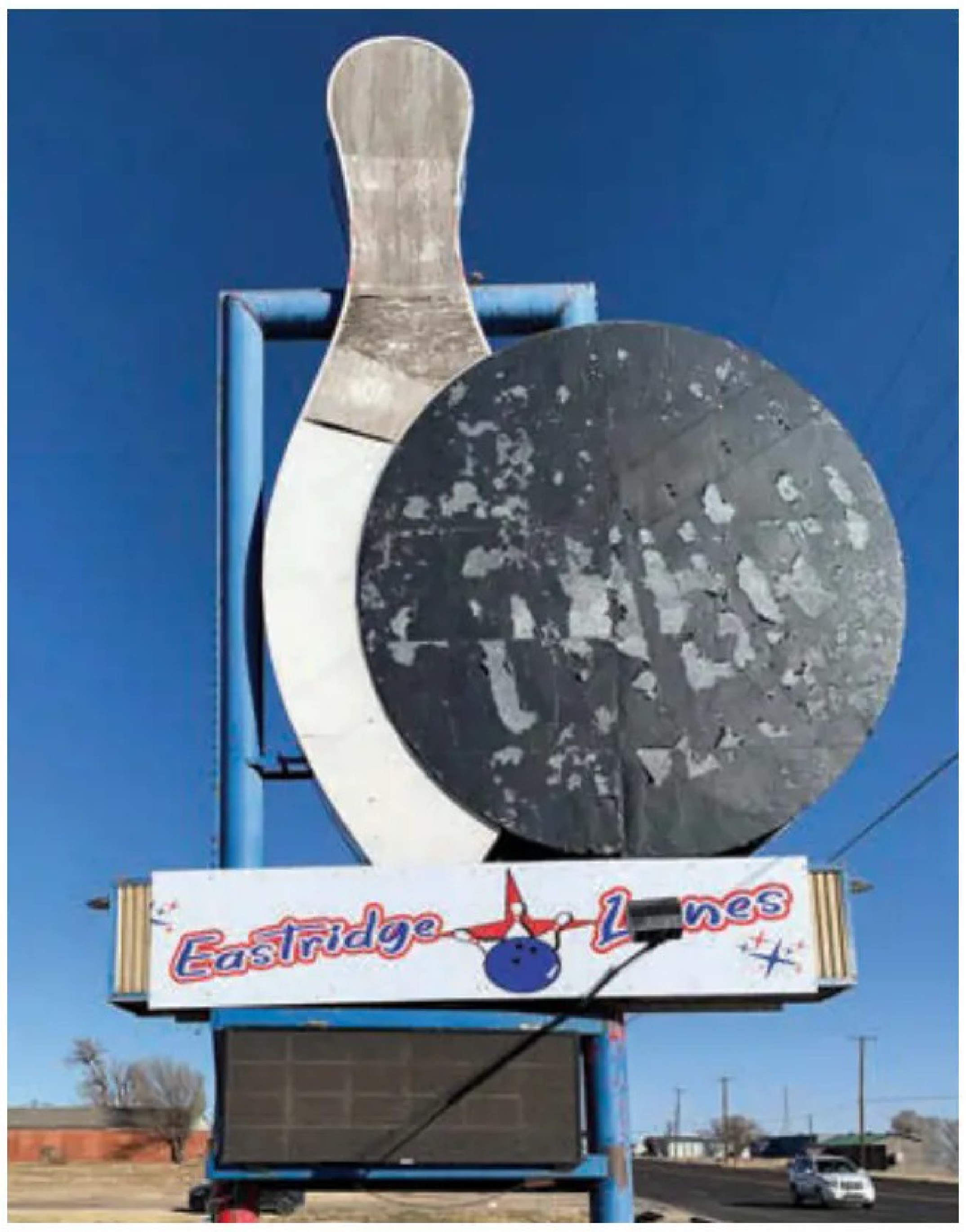
Eastridge Lanes is a classic, too. Originally known as Eastridge Bowling Palace, the local hangout opened in 1959 with thirty-two lanes. Initially open twenty-four hours a day, sharing the property with a restaurant and a children's nursery, it was a hub for the nearby Air Force base, which closed in 1968. Its sign depicts a mammoth bowling ball slamming into one towering pin. The bowling ball is flaking black paint. The pin is so weathered that the red stripes around its neck can hardly be seen.

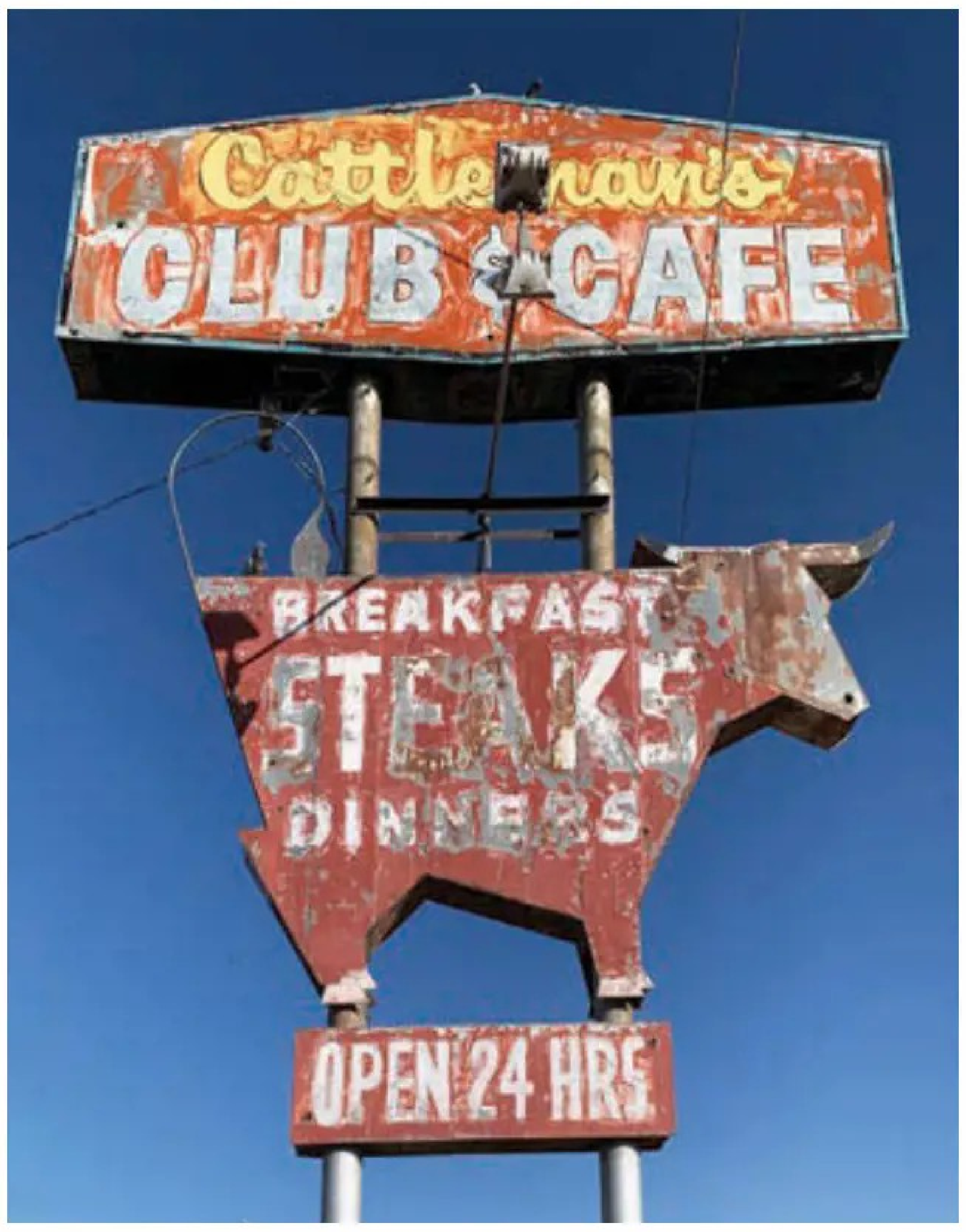
Both signs are remarkable in size—and remarkably in need of some TLC.

"This is a project we're excited about because it's restoring and preserving a part of Amarillo's history," says Drew Brassfield, assistant director of planning. "These two businesses are some of the longest continually operated businesses in Amarillo, and we are proud to partner with them to breathe some new life into the properties."

Amarillo hopes to have both signs glowing again before Route 66's centennial in 2026, along with one for The Nat on West 6th Avenue—historically The Natatorium, a swimming pool—and, over the years, a dance hall, diner, concert venue, and now a marketplace.

If you're aiming to hit town by morning, they'll light the way.





Cattleman's Club Cafe and Eastridge Lanes signs photos courtesy the City of Amarillo.

Ice Cream and Saddles

FRANKFORT, Ky.—An inquisitive *American Road* reader recently asked us to cite the strangest antiquated traffic law on the books in any state. Without missing a beat, we answered, "The one in Kentucky that prohibits a person from carrying an ice cream cone in his back pocket."

At least, that's the oddest old law about which we've *heard*. We've never been able to confirm its existence as anything more than an urban myth. But word is it was adopted in an earlier era to deter horse thieves who often lured steeds away from their rightful owners with a sugary scoop of vanilla.

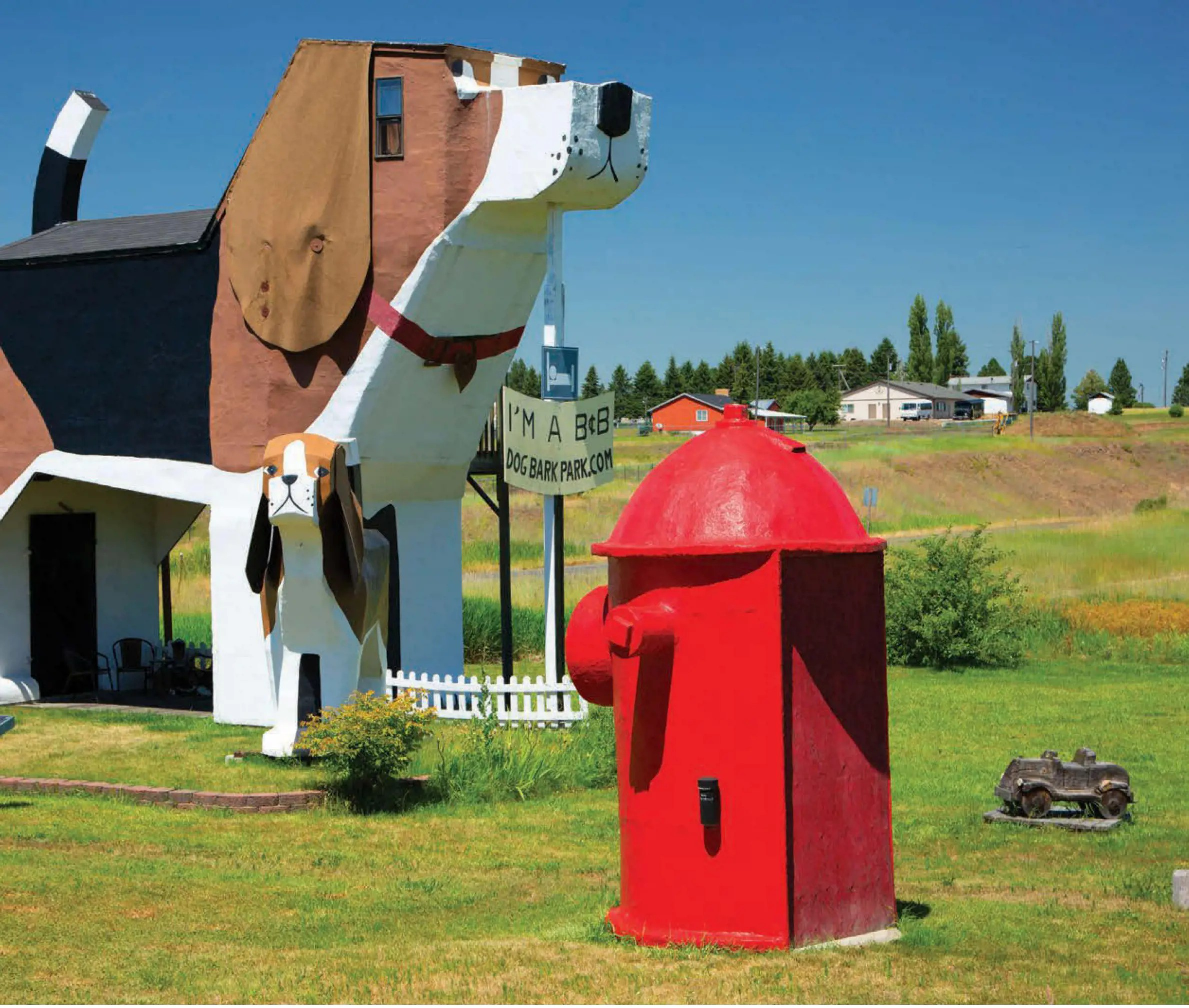
NOBLE & ABSURD UNDERTAKING

Every Dog Had Its Day

COTTONWOOD, Idaho—"You look as huggable as those dogs you have there," she said with a smile, walking up to the artist at his show in Missoula, Montana.

"Well, don't hold back," he replied.

This meet-cute marked the beginning of the courtship and marriage of Dennis J. Sullivan and Frances Conklin, long before they became the king and queen of wooden beagles in Cottonwood, Idaho. The couple eventually would become proprietors of the Dog Bark Park Inn, one of the quirkiest hotels in the country. (But we'll let that sleeping dog lie for the moment.)



DOG DAYS ARE DONE: [Above] While Sweet Willy is no longer open for overnight stays, Dog Bark Park offers guided $10 tours of the building. Dennis and Frances are also people, so you'll likely get a great conversation to go along with it.

At the time the two met, Sullivan had just changed careers—ending his role as a building contractor for something he'd never done before: woodcarving, and with a chainsaw, no less. "I was forty-something years old," he says, "and maybe that's a deadly time for middle-aged guys. I decided that I was not going to build one more structure."

Sullivan learned by doing, carving over and over until he was pretty good at it. The passion led to the carved dogs, which in turn led to the art show, which ultimately led to Frances. Frances then led to a gig selling dogs—ten thousand of them!—on the QVC home shopping network. ("We had more money than I'd ever had in my entire life," he says.)

Looking for a place to display the dogs, which by now Dennis was carving and Frances painting, the couple bought a nice piece of property in Cottonwood. Then the building bug bit Sullivan one more time, in the strangest way.

"I told Frances I wanted to build a big dog," Sullivan remembers. "She said, 'Oh, really? How big?' I said, 'Three stories.'"

"Sweet Willy," the giant two-bedroom beagle, became a famous bed and breakfast, perched over US Highway 95 in central Idaho. For decades, the prodigious pup was booked solid. But time takes a toll.

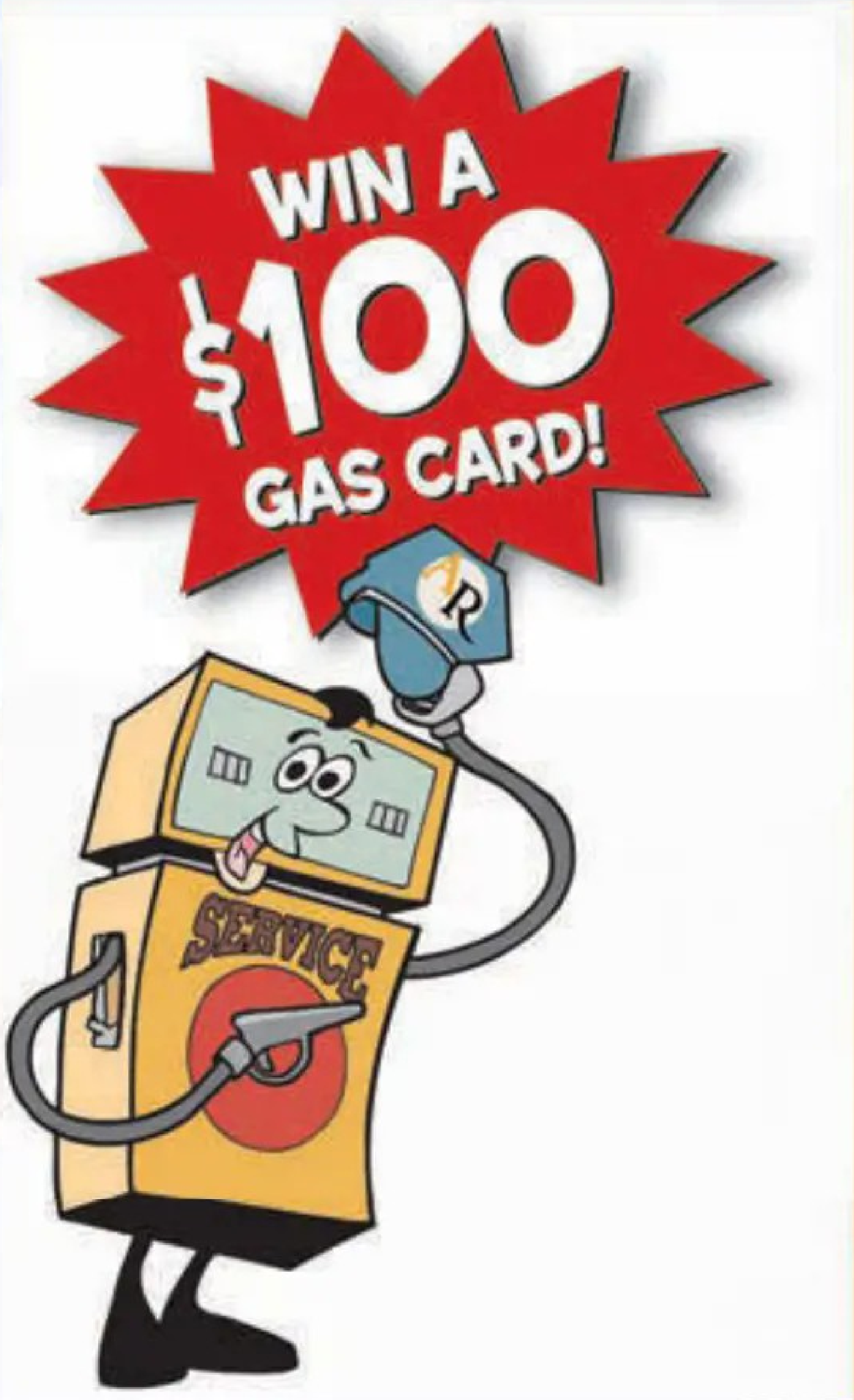
The couple recently stopped hosting overnight guests, but curious travelers can still stop and tour the property—and maybe even "visit," in true canine fashion, the large fire hydrant sculpture into which Sullivan has tucked a portable toilet.

Best to call ahead, though. Who knows whether the retired couple will be home?

They could be out walking the dog.

Dog Bark Park Inn © George Ostertag.

WIN a $100 GAS CARD from AMERICAN ROAD!



AUTUMN DRIVES, FESTIVALS, AND EVENTS!

Enter Today to Win Prizes
from AMERICAN ROAD® and OUR GREAT SPONSORS!

Submit YOUR entry ONLINE at americanroadmagazine.com

Or send an EMAIL with name, address, and phone # to
sweepstakes@americanroadmagazine.com
Or MAIL your entry via USPS to
AMERICAN ROAD, **PO Box 46519, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046**

Entries must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2025. Two names will be drawn to win one of the following prizes: a $100 gas card, and $1000 in travel credit from Access Development. No purchase necessary. One entry per person. AMERICAN ROAD® staff, independent contractors who work with AMERICAN ROAD®, and individuals who work for the entity sponsoring the prize are ineligible to enter the respective contest. Estimated odds of winning are 1/50,000. Contest start date: October 1, 2025. Contest end date: December 31, 2025.

By submitting the information above, you are authorizing Mock Turtle Press/AMERICAN ROAD® magazine and any affiliated parties to contact you with additional news, information, or offers. You are also authorizing that the contest sponsor(s) may contact you. If you wish to opt out of receiving information from any of the above parties, you must indicate "opt out" and designate the party from whom you choose not to receive information on your entry form.

Room To Roam
IDAHO
visitidaho.org
Southeast Idaho
HIGH COUNTRY
888-201-1063

Enjoy the natural beauty of southeast Idaho—with over 60% public lands and six hundred plus miles of trails. Relax in our many rejuvenating hot springs as you traverse the Pioneer Historic Byway and the Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byways. Explore the Idaho Potato Museum, the Museum of Clean, or the Butch Cassidy Museum to name just a few unique gems. Stop to splash in the world's-only captive geyser in Soda Springs, drink in the beauty of vivid turquoise lakes, rivers, and mountains and then get up and do it again!

For inspiration & resources to plan your trip to southeast Idaho visit

IdahoHighCountry.org

AMERICAN ROAD® SALUTES Our ADVERTISERS...

WIN a $1000 TRAVEL SAVINGS CARD from Access Development!

FALLING SPRING FALLS

HUMPBACK BRIDGE

GATHRIGHT DAM

SCENERY x3

EXPERIENCE A
UNIQUELY ALLEGHANY TRIO
OF SCENIC BEAUTY

THEY SAY GOOD THINGS
COME IN THREES.

Don't miss the Instagram-worthy places
that make us *Uniquely Alleghany.*

Plan a scenic three-day getaway at **VisitAlleghanyHighlands.com**

Alleghany
Highlands
OF VIRGINIA

540-962-2178 · 888-430-5786
#UniquelyAlleghany

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

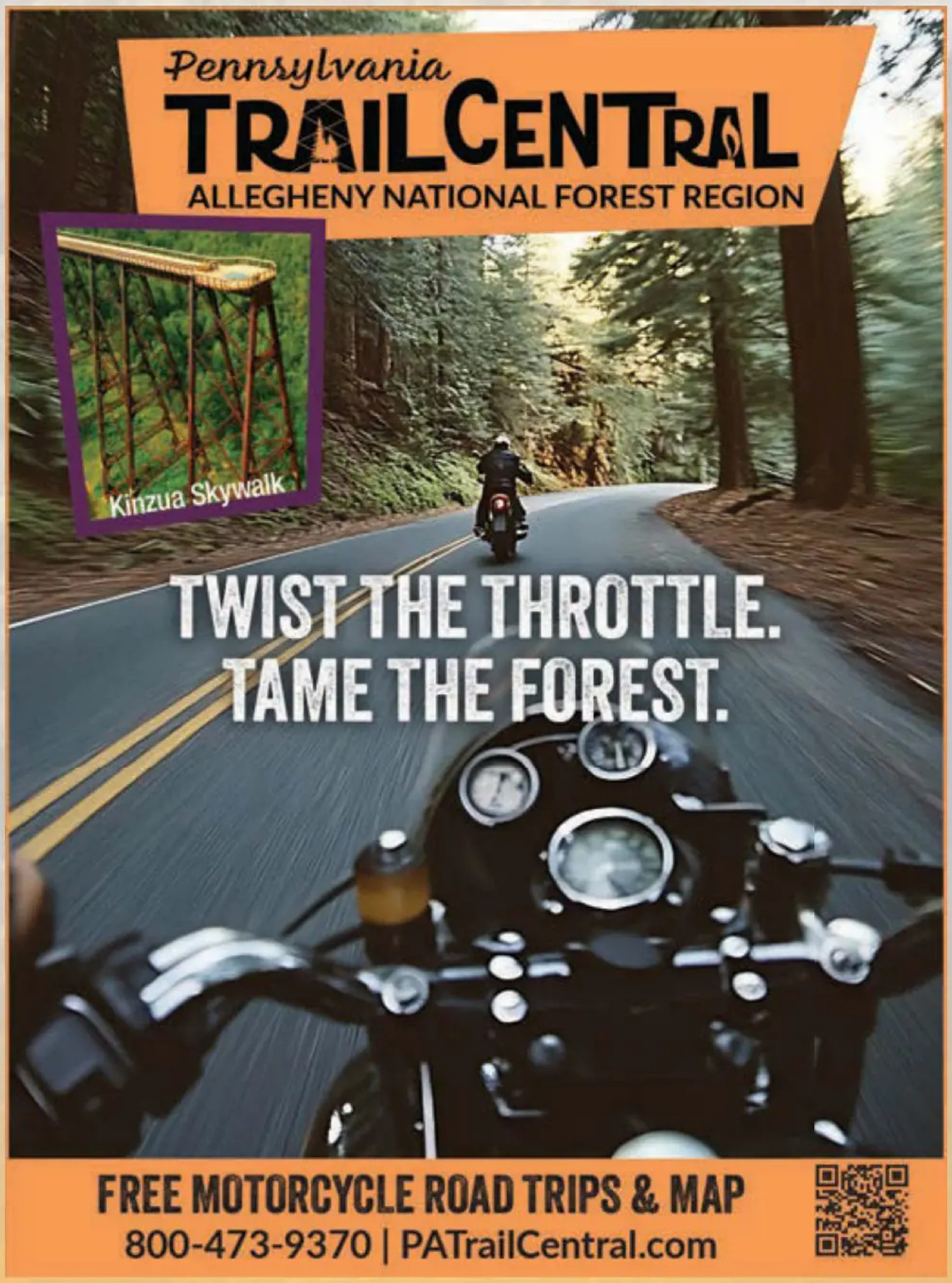
COVINGTON · CLIFTON FORGE · IRON GATE · ALLEGHANY COUNTY

WILD TRAVELS

Celebrating America's
most colorful, offbeat
and quirky events.

Broadcast on PBS
Streaming on
pbs.org/show/wild-travels

Kinetic
Sculpture Race
Baltimore



Pennsylvania
TRAIL CENTRAL
ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST REGION

Kinzua Skywalk

TWIST THE THROTTLE.
TAME THE FOREST.

FREE MOTORCYCLE ROAD TRIPS & MAP
800-473-9370 | PATrailCentral.com

Who Have Made Possible Our SWEEPSTAKES GIVEAWAY!

WIN a $100 GAS CARD from AMERICAN ROAD!

GEORGIA'S OUTDOOR
White County
Adventure
DESTINATION

An outdoor adventure every day

There's no better place to explore the great outdoors than in White County. With over 20 area waterfalls, 7 wineries, 2 State Parks and Georgia's newest Historic Site - Hardman Farm, every day is an adventure. We also offer excellent hiking, biking, zip-lining, tubing, kayaking, golf, annual events throughout the year and much more.

Alpine Helen

Sautee Nacoochee - Cleveland & Unicoi State Park

800-858-802 www.HelenGa.org

Alpine Helen-White County Regional Visitor Center
726 Bruckenstrasse, Helen, GA 30545

AlpineHelenWhiteCountyCVB AlpineHelenGa

Hemlock Inn

A Blowing Rock Tradition

Walk to downtown shopping and dining

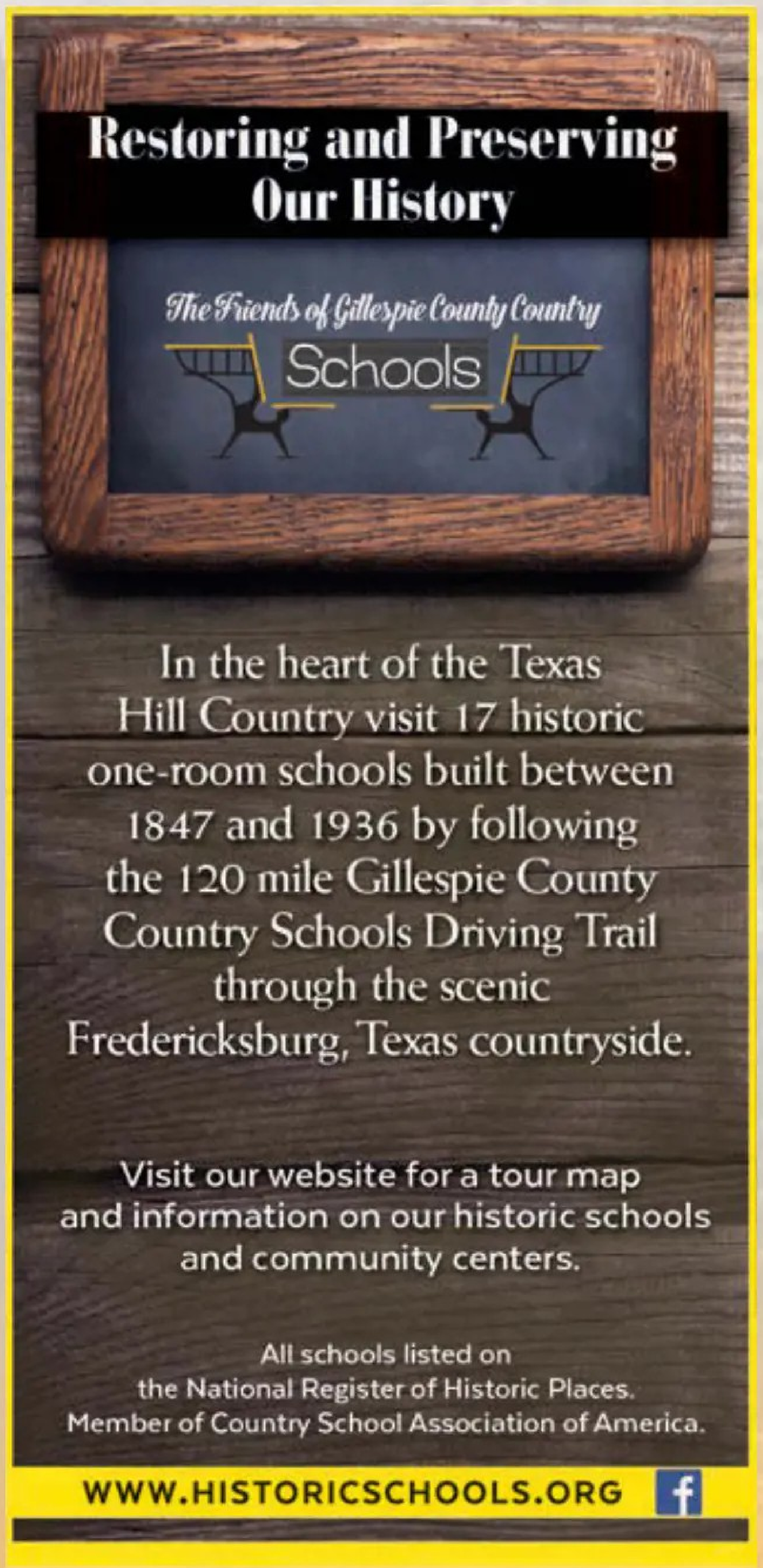
Easy driving to many area attractions

18 uniquely designed rooms

Open Year Round

HemlockInn.net

828-295-7987 • 134 Morris Street
Blowing Rock, North Carolina



Restoring and Preserving Our History

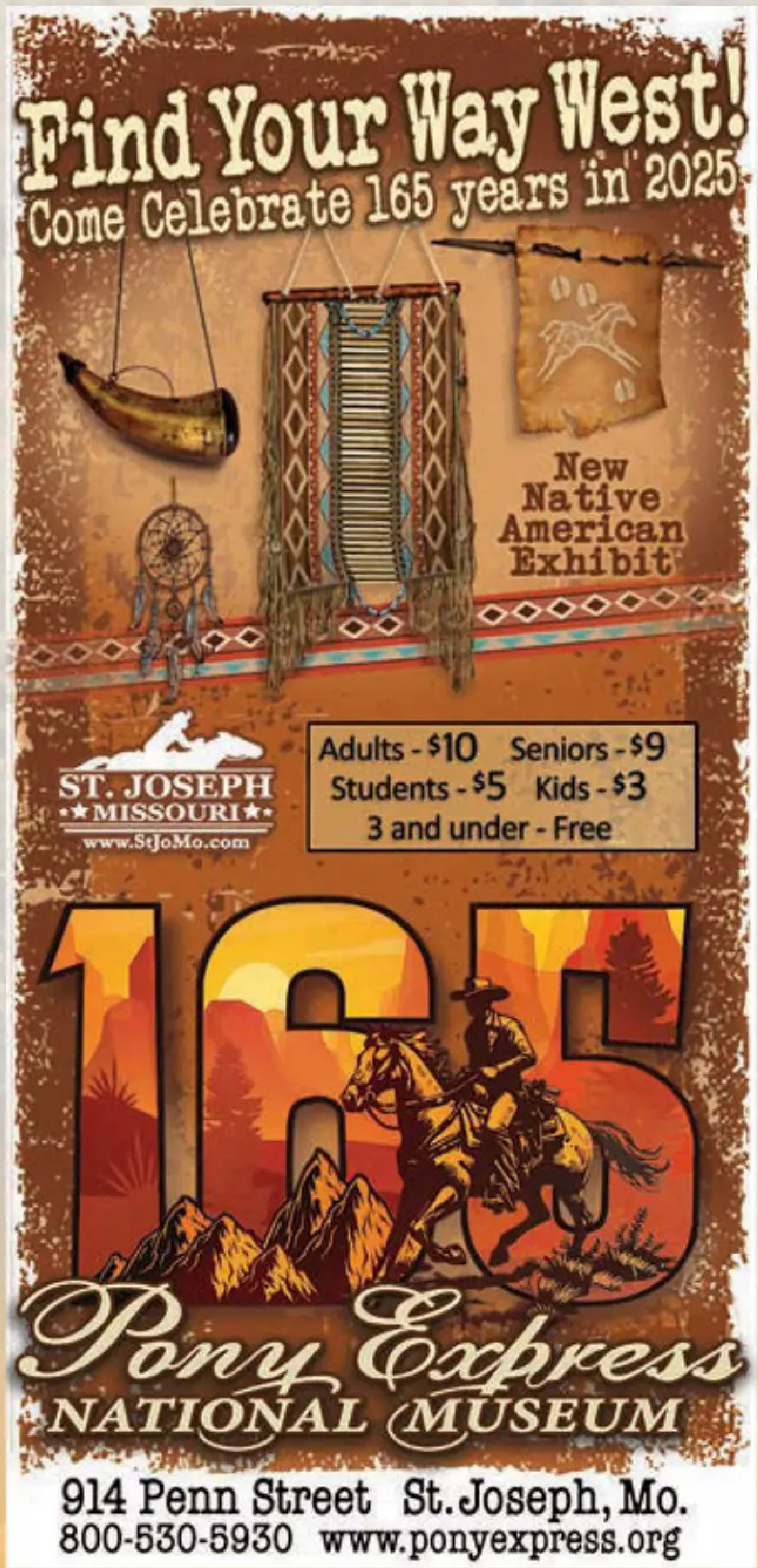
The Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools

In the heart of the Texas Hill Country visit 17 historic one-room schools built between 1847 and 1936 by following the 120 mile Gillespie County Country Schools Driving Trail through the scenic Fredericksburg, Texas countryside.

Visit our website for a tour map and information on our historic schools and community centers.

All schools listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
Member of Country School Association of America.

WWW.HISTORICSCHOOLS.ORG



Find Your Way West!

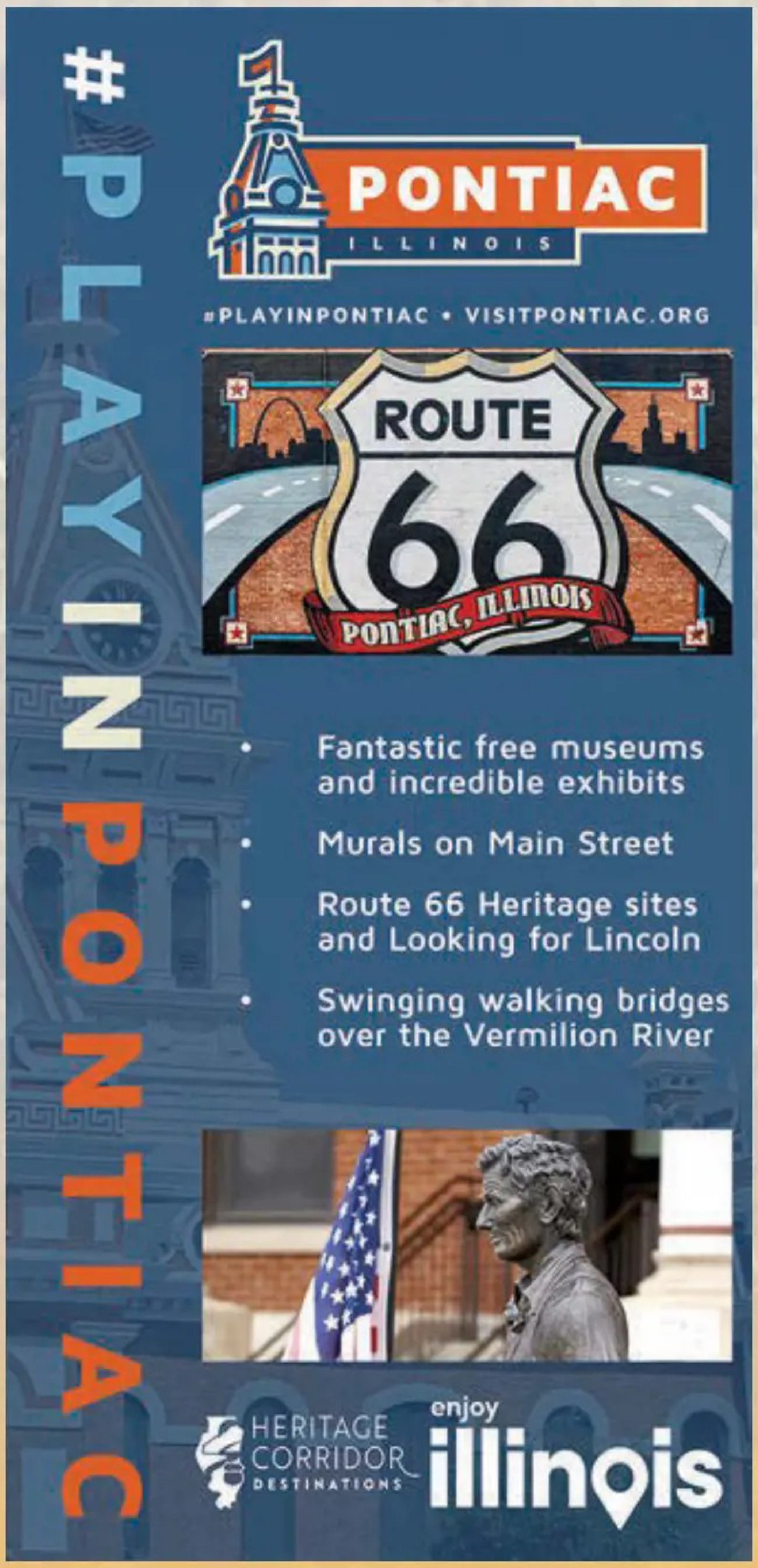
Come Celebrate 165 years in 2025

New Native American Exhibit

Adults - $10 Seniors - $9
Students - $5 Kids - $3
3 and under - Free

Pony Express
NATIONAL MUSEUM

914 Penn Street St. Joseph, Mo.
800-530-5930 www.ponyexpress.org



PONTIAC
ILLINOIS

#PLAYINPONTIAC • VISITPONTIAC.ORG

- Fantastic free museums and incredible exhibits
- Murals on Main Street
- Route 66 Heritage sites and Looking for Lincoln
- Swinging walking bridges over the Vermilion River

AMERICAN ROAD® SALUTES Our ADVERTISERS...

WIN a $1000 TRAVEL SAVINGS CARD from Access Development!

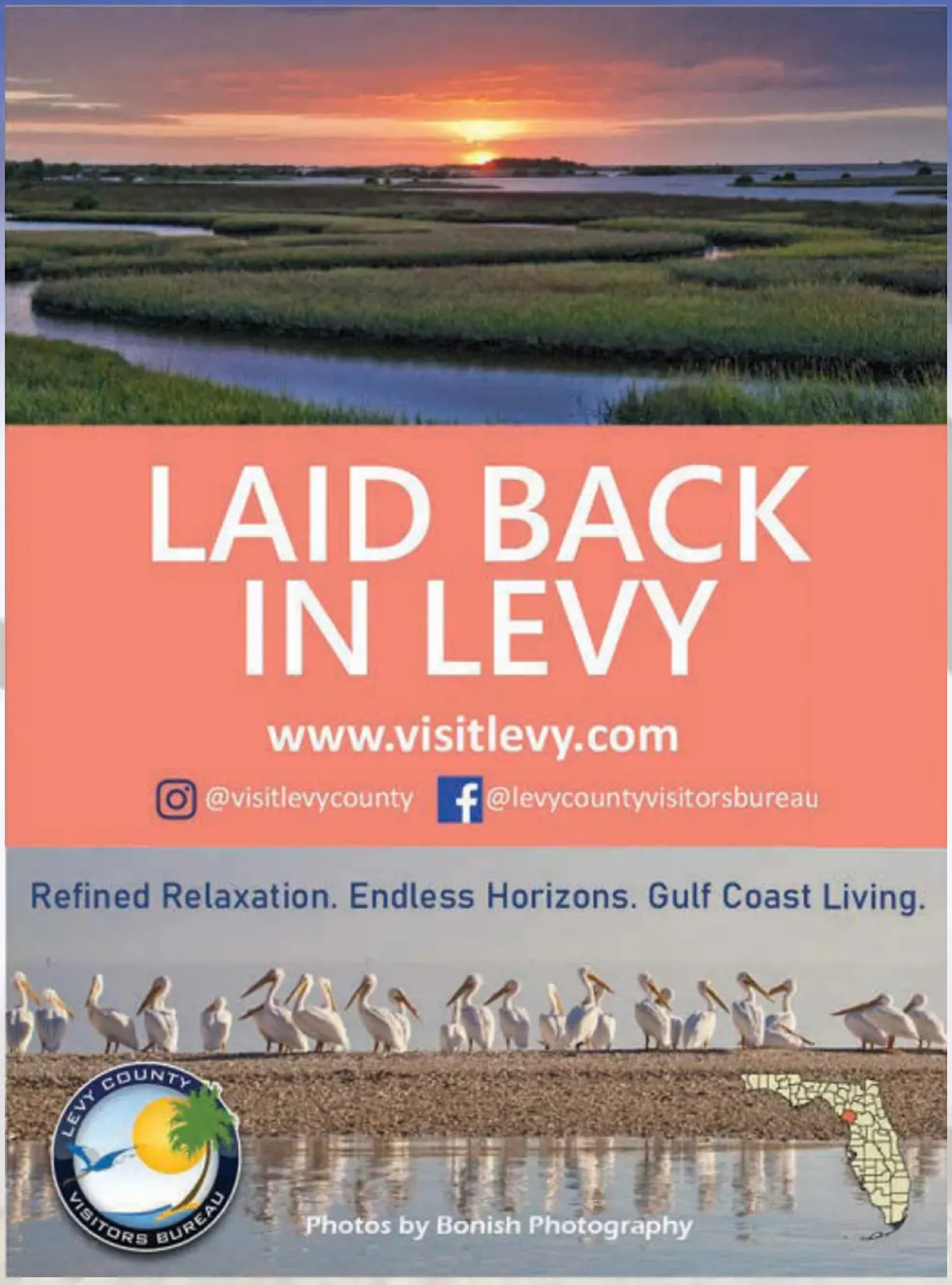
WORD GAMES TO GO
Usborne Travel Activity Pad

The Answer to "Are We There Yet?"

paperpie brand partner

L13115.paperpie.com

Rebecca Repp, brand partner


Levy County Visitors Bureau

LAID BACK IN LEVY

www.visitlevy.com

@visitlevycounty @levycountyvisitorsbureau

Refined Relaxation. Endless Horizons. Gulf Coast Living.

Photos by Bonish Photography

BRIAN'S
WALKING TRAIL • PHOTO OP

Choose Your Adventure Today

Florida's
ADVENTURE COAST
BROOKSVILLE ◆ WEEKI WACHEE
800.601.4580 ◆ 352.754.4405
– FloridasAdventureCoast.com –

MISSISSIPPI BLUES COMMISSION
BLUE FRONT CAFE

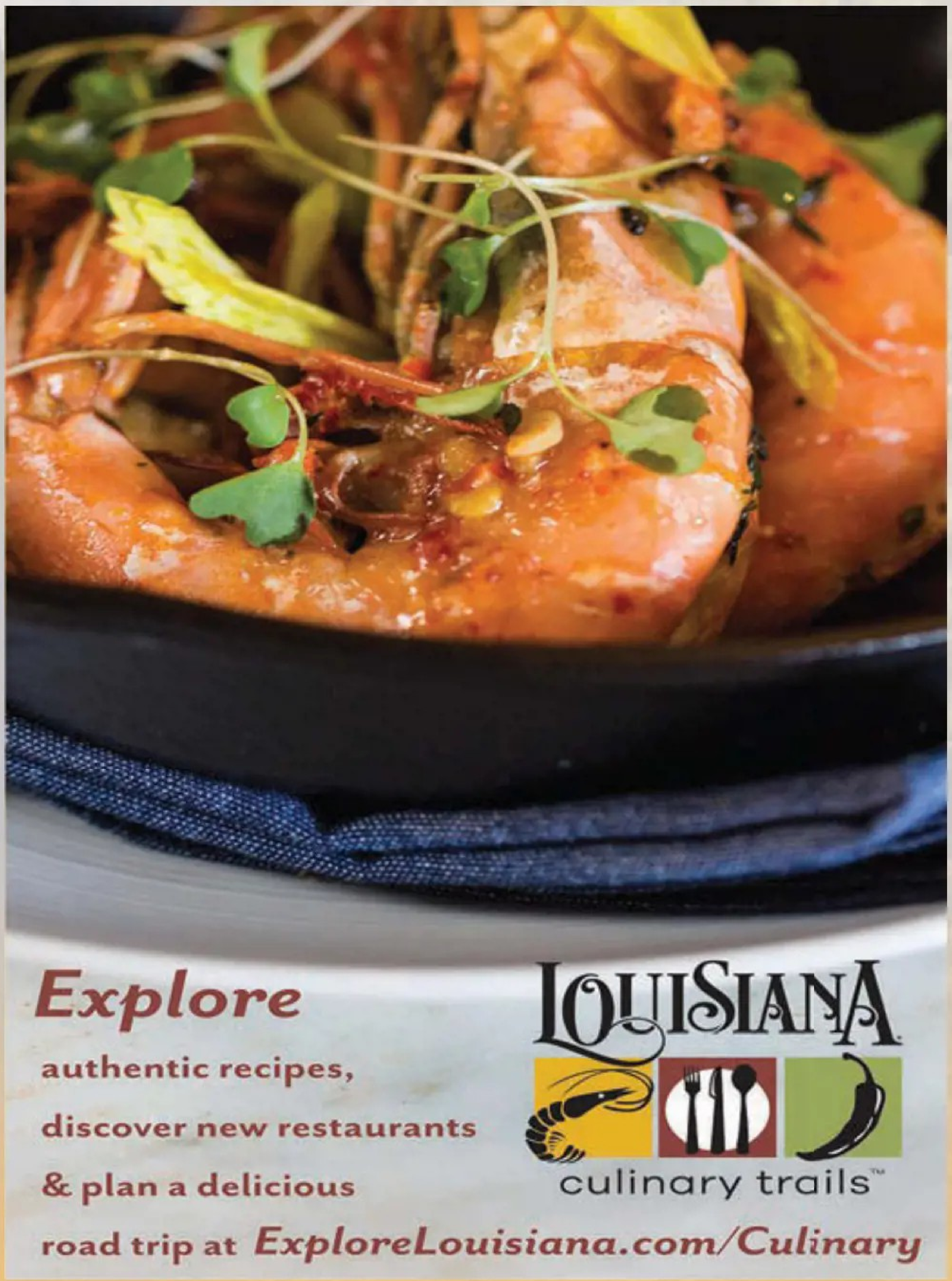
VISIT YAZOO

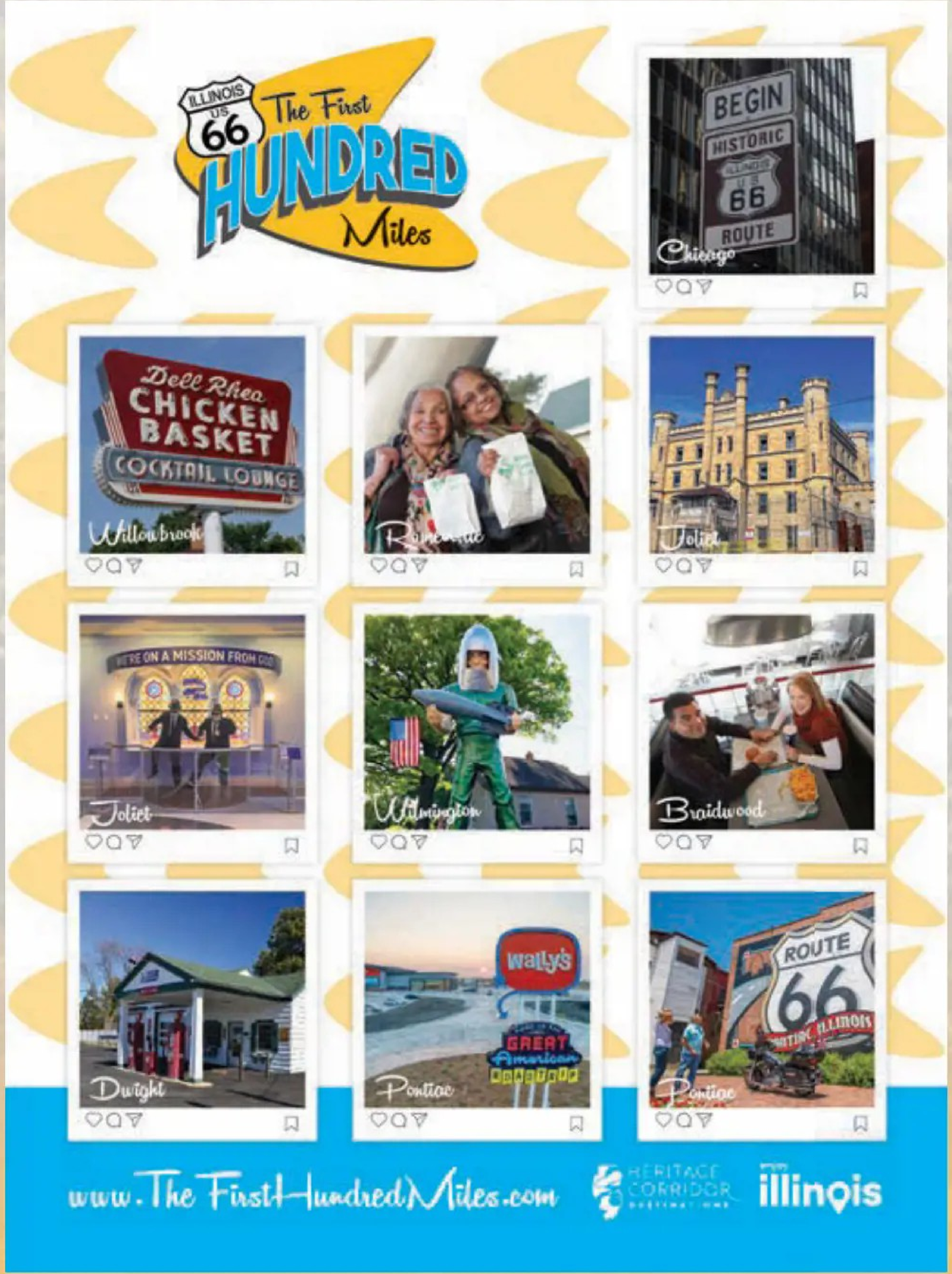
WWW.VISITYAZOO.ORG

Who Have Made Possible Our **SWEEPSTAKES GIVEAWAY!**

WIN a $100 GAS CARD from AMERICAN ROAD!

You're Invited!
PORT WASHINGTON
WISCONSIN
visitportwashington.com


Explore
authentic recipes,
discover new restaurants
& plan a delicious
road trip at ExploreLouisiana.com/Culinary
LOUISIANA
culinary trails™


ILLINOIS US 66
The First HUNDRED Miles
BEGIN HISTORIC ILLINOIS US 66 ROUTE
Chicago
Dell Rhea CHICKEN BASKET COCKTAIL LOUNGE
Willowbrook
Romeoville
Joliet
WE'RE ON A MISSION FROM GOD
Joliet
Wilmington
Braidwood
Dwight
Wally's
GREAT American ROAD TRIP
Pontiac
ROUTE 66
Pontiac
www.TheFirstHundredMiles.com
HERITAGE CORRIDOR DESTINATIONS
illinois

AMERICAN ROAD® SALUTES Our ADVERTISERS...

WIN a $1000 TRAVEL SAVINGS CARD from Access Development!

COLISEUM BALL ROOM
A. Lincoln MOTEL
AIR CONDITIONED TV TELEPHONES
AAA
BEL AIR DRIVE IN
RELIVE THE JOURNEY
EXPERIENCE THE LEGENDS
ILLINOISROUTE66.ORG
MOTEL
CHAIN of ROCKS
PHONES
TV
Legends NEON PARK

OVERNIGHT
IN THE HEART OF ILLINOIS

ROUTE 66

Murals, Wayside Exhibits, Culinary Delights and so much more await you in legendary Springfield! Visit the new Bob Waldmire Art Exhibition, on display thru December 2026 and walk a quarter-mile stretch of uncovered original Route 66 pavement at the Carpenter Park Alignment along the Sangamon River! All this along with world-class Abraham Lincoln sites.

LEGENDARY SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

NOW SHOWING
AT YOUR NEAREST STATE EXIT!
Motorheads BAR & GRILL · MUSEUM
66
HISTORIC
ILLINOIS U S 66
ROUTE
926-30

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

Visit Springfield Illinois
WE'RE More THAN ONE DAY

Let's Get Social!
@visitspringfield

enjoy illinois

Who Have Made Possible Our SWEEPSTAKES GIVEAWAY!

FAIRYLAND

Little RED RIDING HOOD

Photo by the author

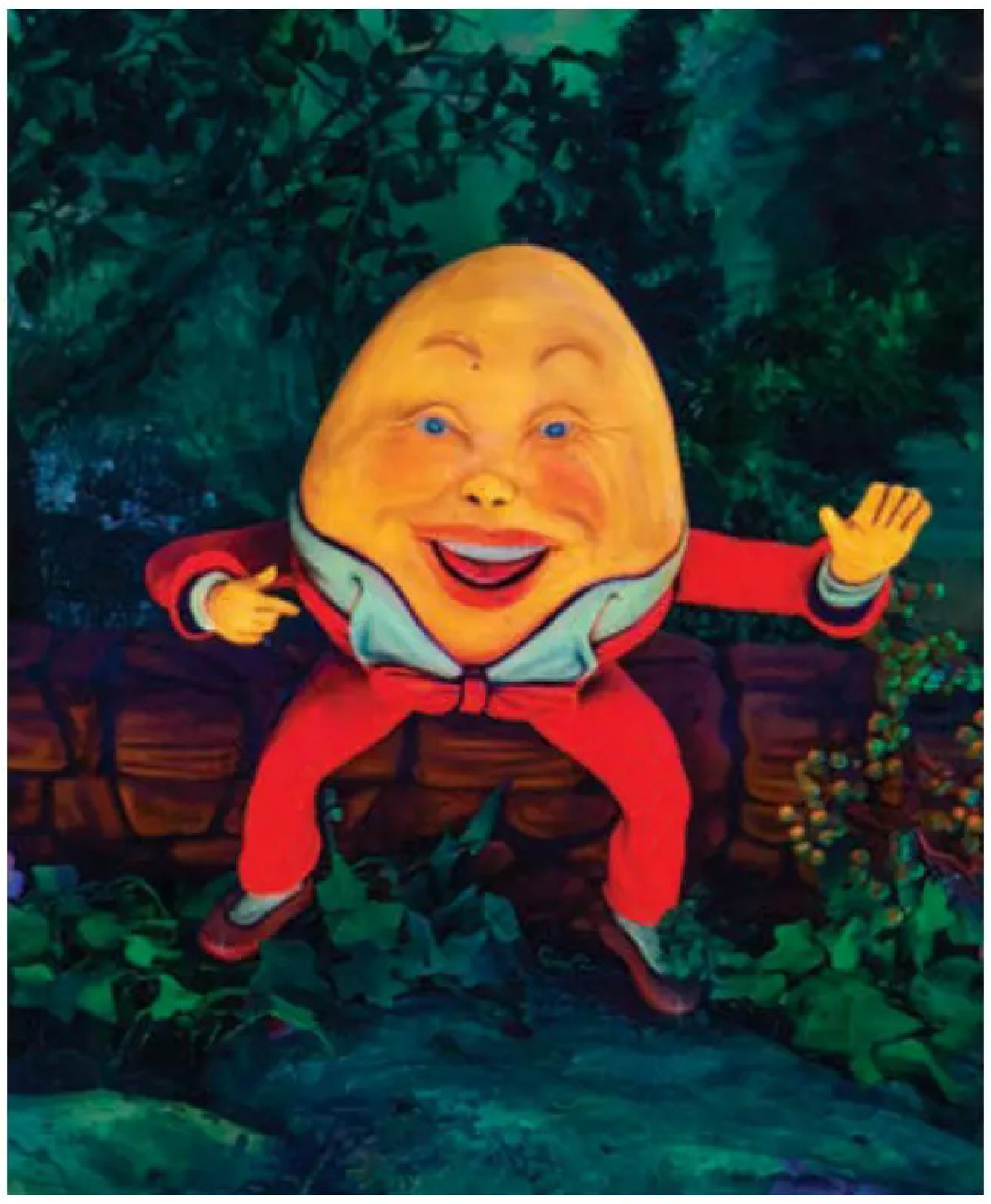
REVISITED

THE ENDURING WONDERS OF ROCK CITY

• BY THOMAS ARTHUR REPP

FAIRYLAND
CAVERNS
NO SMOKING IN FAIRYLAND CAVERNS
SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER AREA

News reporter Howard Goshorn could not shake the nagging impression: Humpty Dumpty didn't look quite right.



Oh, the storied egg of nursery-rhyme fame appeared precisely as imagination might picture him: Sitting there on his bricks in Mother Goose Village, cherry-cheeked and almond-eyed, sporting a crimson suit with bowtie and high collar that perfectly set off the point of his head. Yet, notwithstanding that happy design, something seemed amiss. Goshorn concentrated, but in the blacklight, the nit was nigh impossible to identify; around him, far too many additional fluorescent figures were vying for his attention—pumpkin, haystack, beanstalk, castle, and that cow jumping over the moon. The collective spectacle was brighter and busier than any he had ever seen gracing the pages of a storybook, so it was small wonder that he struggled to single out what disturbed him specifically about Mr. Dumpty.

The year was 1971, and Goshorn wasn't the first tourist overwhelmed by the exhibit. When Mother Goose Village had opened six years earlier, it had been advertised as "The World's Largest Nursery Rhyme Display"—and the cat who wrote that copy wasn't fiddling with hyperbole. Tourists walked with curiosity into the two-story building constructed of native stone, and exited wholly enchanted by what they beheld. While inside, their eyes swam in the buzz of ultraviolet lights and popped over a rainbow of Day-Glo Mother Goose characters. There were blind mice running from a farmer's wife, kittens bemoaning lost mittens, a Crooked Man walking a crooked mile. There was Jack Sprat with no fat and Jack Horner with his plum pie, Mary Quite Contrary tending her cockle shells, and just-plain Mary scolding her little lamb. There were lazy pigs, lost sheep, and a rock-a-bye baby in a treetop—all doing their nursery-rhyme thing. Every visitor who had ever been a kid loved it all, and heaped praise on the operators of Rock City Gardens for dreaming up a sight so fabulous.

"I want to stay here until I grow up!" one smitten youngster was heard to declare. That quote made the newspapers, as did others of similar sentiment voiced by enraptured guests of all ages.

Of course, by the time Mother Goose Village made its debut, Rock City was regularly inspiring high compliments. It was then what it remains today: a marvel of nature and a not-so-secret garden that stands as a rare Eden among roadside attractions. Located atop Georgia's Lookout Mountain, Rock City lies only a few miles south of Chattanooga, Tennessee, yet it might as naturally be nestled on the far shore of Neverland. Its winding paths thread their way past striking sandstone formations graced with fanciful names such as Goblin's Underpass, Cave of the Winds, Hall of the Mountain King, and Fat Man's Squeeze. The playful atmosphere, fields of wildflowers, and awe-inspiring vistas combine to make Rock City one of a kind: It's part scenery, part sanctuary, part land of make believe, and altogether timeless.

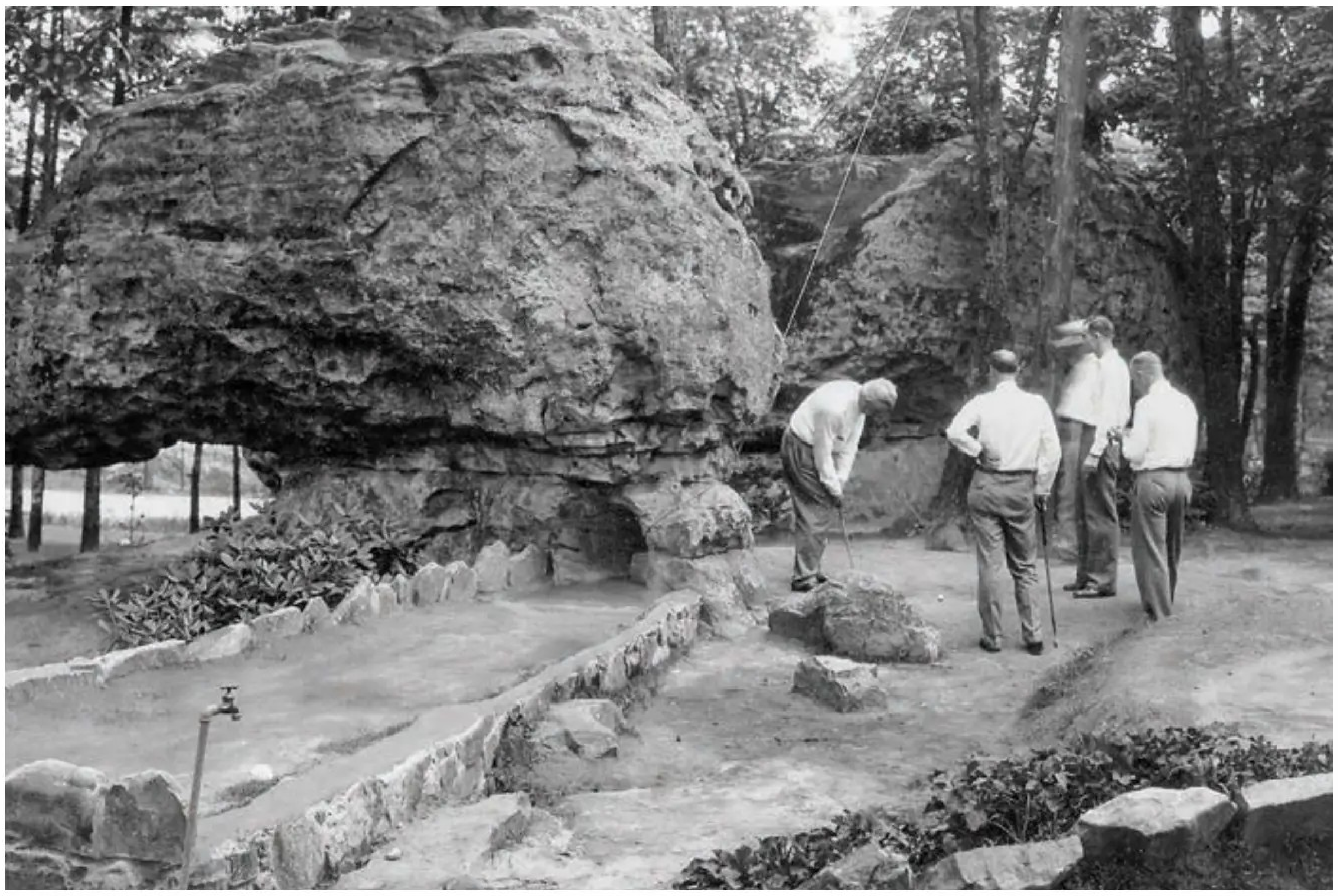
The alluring beauty of Lookout Mountain seduced visitors long before the advent of the automobile. In 1823, Christian missionary Daniel Sabin Butrick arrived in the area. He came to preach to the Cherokee Nation, but he left intrigued with the mountaintop citadel where "immense boulders were arranged in such a way as to afford streets and lanes." During the Civil War, Lookout Mountain was hotly contested, as North and South fought fiercely to possess its peak and control the railroad and river network that lay below. Two visitors to the mountain during that tumultuous period—one a Confederate nurse and the other a Union soldier—speculated in separate diaries that a person could see seven states from atop the sweeping ridge.

LITTLE BIG BEGINNINGS: [Right] Frieda and Garnet Carter with a tiny gnome between them. Garnet was a developer who set out to build a residential neighborhood atop Lookout Mountain. Frieda's love of German folklore literally changed the landscape and led to the opening of Rock City. [Opposite] Little Red Riding Hood caps the entrance to Fairyland Caverns.

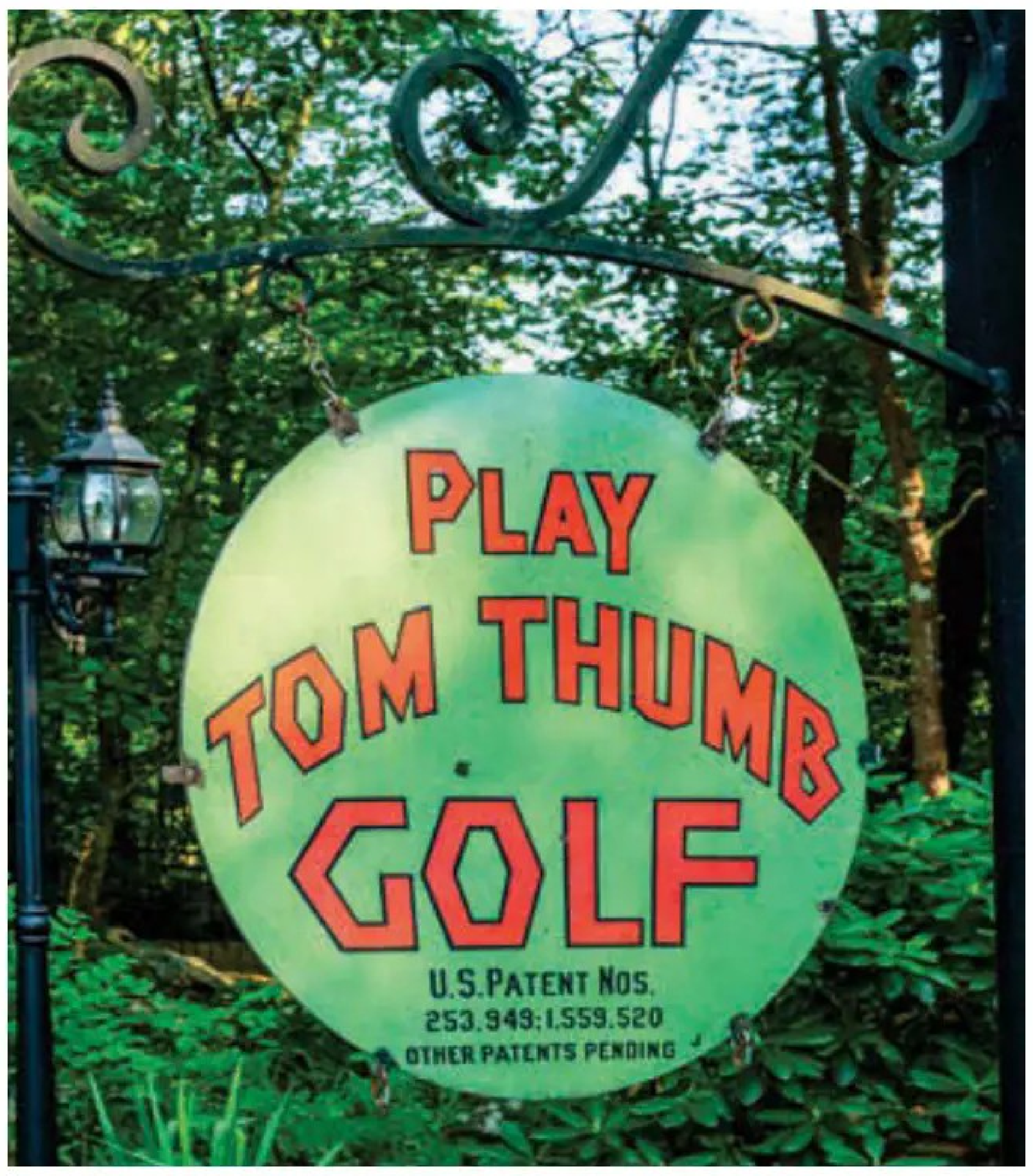
Humpty Dumpty and Fairyland Caverns entrance © Thomas Arthur Repp. Frieda and Garnet Carter and gnome photo courtesy Rock City Inc.

HELL IN THE HEAVENS: A 12-pounder Napoleon cannon sits quietly atop Lookout Mountain at Garrity's Alabama Battery, overlooking Chattanooga and the Tennessee River. The Battle of Lookout Mountain—also known as the Battle Above the Clouds—was fought November 24, 1863, as part of the Chattanooga Campaign. *Photo © Sean Pavone.*

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN INCLINE RAILWAY
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
INCLINE RAILWAY

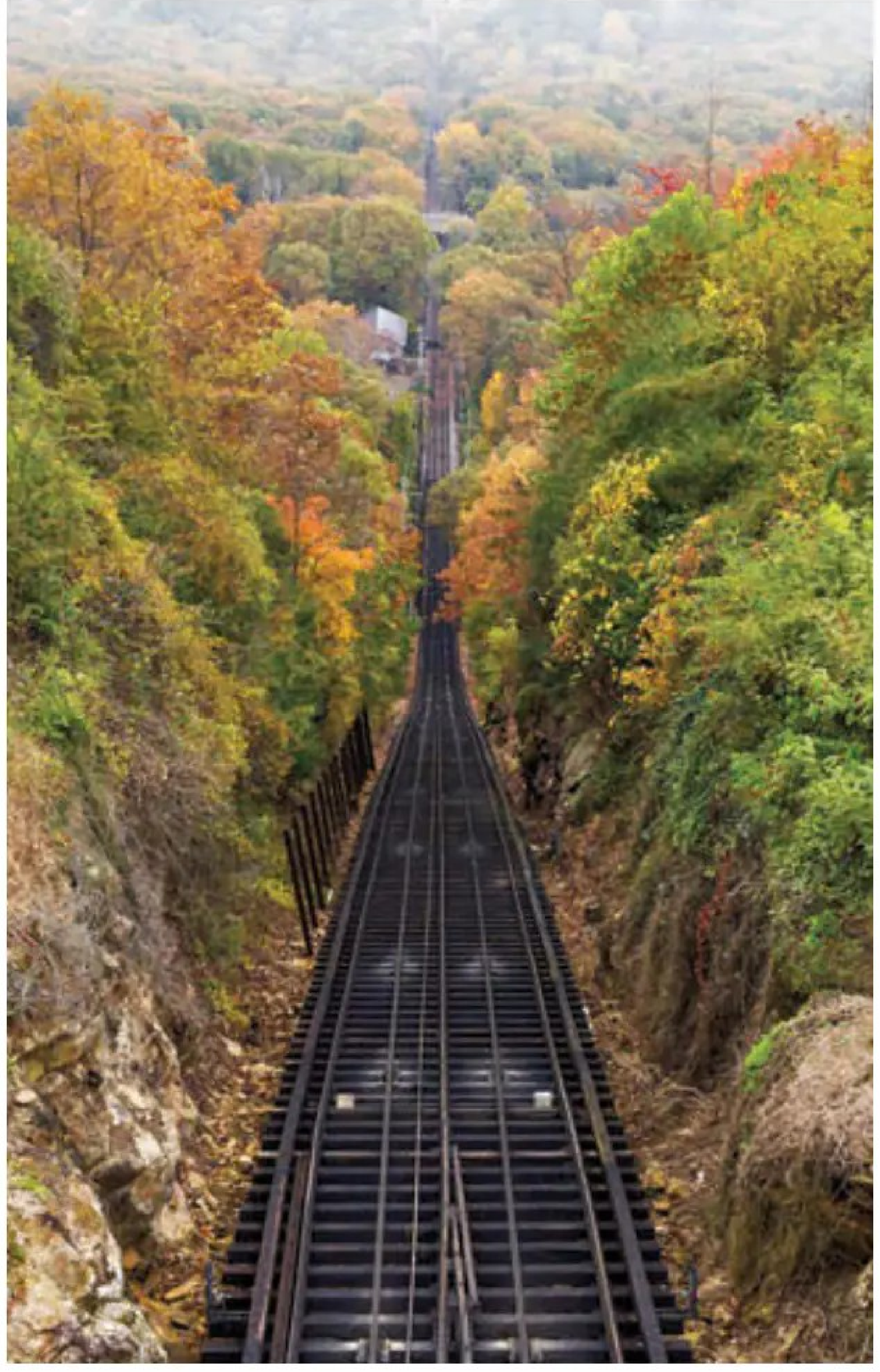


THUMBS UP! [Above and right] Tom Thumb Golf brought Garnet Carter fame and fortune. He drew a $200 royalty on each course he franchised. Miniature golf became a craze. "Just about everywhere but Italy," Carter told the Nashville *Tennessean* in 1953. "Mussolini didn't like the idea."



By the closing years of the nineteenth century, Lookout Mountain had become a favorite with Chattanoogans seeking escape from summer heat and the grime of the industrialized city. Hikers and geologists made the trek to its top on foot; average citizens climbed aboard incline railways opened in 1887 and 1895 and rode tracks toward its summit. Developers capitalized on the mountain's growing popularity and began erecting stately homes on the forested slopes. One of these builders was (John) Garnet Carter, an inventor-turned-entrepreneur from Sweetwater, Tennessee, who in the early 1920s hit upon the idea of constructing an upscale resort community near Lookout's crown. With an eye toward the surrounding crags and crevasses, low-hung clouds and high, singing trees, Carter christened his housing tract "Fairyland." He platted streets with names such as Aladdin Lane and Cinderella Road, erected a few early cabins, and promised to soon unveil a world-class neighborhood golf course—all in pursuit of his advertised happily ever after.

SKY RIDE: [Opposite and below] Today's Lookout Mountain Incline Railway dates from 1895 when engineer John T. Crass laid tracks up the steepest part of the ridge. The incline, 1,972 feet long and rising 1,450 feet, makes use of a variable grade, ranging up to 72.7 percent near its top.



Plans didn't materialize as Carter intended, however. Although he opened the Tudor-Revival-style Fairyland Inn to dedicated vacationers on June 23, 1925, construction of the more ambitious housing tract and golf course lagged. When visiting golfers began to gripe, Carter decided to create a smaller green that challenged a player's putting skills in unusual fashion: He designed little links with natural grass, then placed pieces of tile, sewer pipe, and hollow logs around the holes to serve as hazards. The result was the country's first miniature golf course, and it sparked a national craze.

"'Demi-tasse' golf, as Will Rogers calls it, is a native of Tennessee," the *Nashville Banner* proudly reported of the new midget sport. "Garnet Carter [has] invented a putting green of cottonseed hulls." Eighteen holes, varying in length from twenty-six to fifty feet, made for a game—each designed with traps, passageways, and bunkers suitable for play only with the smallest of clubs. In 1928, the popularity of the course led Carter to franchise the concept under the name "Tom Thumb Golf." By 1930, *Popular Science* was describing the novelty as "America's newest big industry," and the tiny green at Rock City was becoming part of a greater amusement mecca. The housing tract was no longer top priority.

> **"In 1928, the popularity of the course led Carter to franchise the concept under the name 'Tom Thumb Golf.'"**

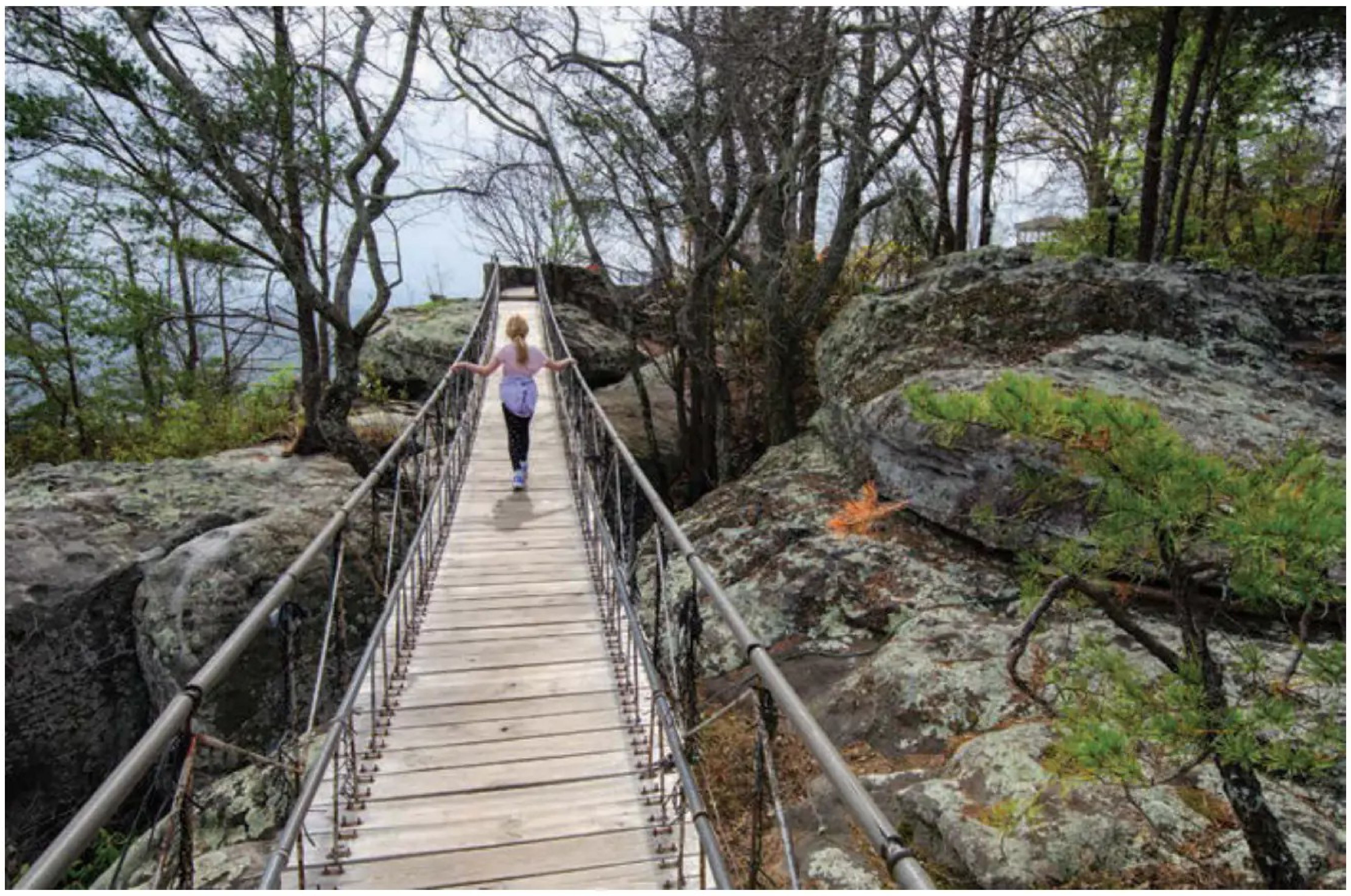
Lookout Mountain Incline Railway car © Robert Harding. Tracks © Daniel Dempster Photography. Tom Thumb Golf images courtesy Rock City Inc.

ROCK CIT
ENTER HERE
U.S.MAIL

ROCK SHOW: The entrance to Rock City Gardens as it appeared in the 1950s. The building remains in use as the starting point for any excursion along the Enchanted Trail. *Photo © M&N.*

NEEDLES EYE

FLOWER POWER: [Above] Frieda Carter left Rock City a legacy that prizes the flora of Lookout Mountain. Today's gardens contain more than four hundred varieties of wildflowers, shrubs, and trees, many of them introduced by Frieda among the native azaleas.



HOLDING SWAY: [Above] Pathways at Rock City Gardens persist in leading visitors up, down, and through thin air. Not for the faint of heart is the Swing-A-Long Bridge, a bouncy span that offers those who brave it stunning panoramic views of the Tennessee River valley.

The change in Carter's approach was spurred by the economic downturn of the Great Depression and encouraged by the artistic sensibilities of his wife, Frieda Utermoehlen. While he had focused on developing the couple's business interests before the markets crashed, she had worked in the background, quietly adding beauty to everything they'd built. It was Frieda, not Garnet, who had drawn up the architectural plans for the picturesque stone cottages that flanked the Fairyland Inn. It was Frieda, not Garnet, who had coined the name "Fairyland" for their housing community in the first place. A nature lover and natural aesthete, she sensed magic hidden in Rock City's heights. And she seemed born to bolster its spell.

During her leisure hours, Frieda took twine in hand and laid out a walking trail through the rock formations. She ended her path at the giant outcropping called Lover's Leap. She gathered native shrubs and wildflowers and transplanted these alongside this trail, painting with petals what a lesser artist would struggle to render with a brush. Here and there—in the split of a rock face or a copse of evergreens—Frieda placed sculptures of a fanciful figures—gnomes mostly, but other characters, too—storybook heavyweights who literally and traditionally hailed from places far, far away.

"Frieda was the daughter of German immigrants," says Rock City Senior Manager of Innovation, Will Jackson. "When she was young, she was deeply exposed to Germanic folklore, and she developed a love for Grimm's fairy tales. As she laid out the gardens here—which she initially intended to be private gardens for herself and Garnet—she found herself recalling the settings in these stories and working to recreate them with her floriculture. The statues she used were imported from Germany—terra cotta figures cast from original sculptures by notable Bavarian artists. These sculptures had been produced in the 1870s or 1880s, so they were old even at the time Frieda installed them. When the economy went bad—and most of the plans for the Carters' housing project went with it—Garnet, ever the promoter, looked at Frieda's gardens and said, 'This is where the real show is, anyway. Let's charge visitors a fee for viewing our yard.'"

Rock City Gardens opened to the public in May of 1932, introducing the world to a one-of-a-kind attraction. Its first visitors strolled the grounds wordlessly feeling, perhaps, as if they were treading the edges

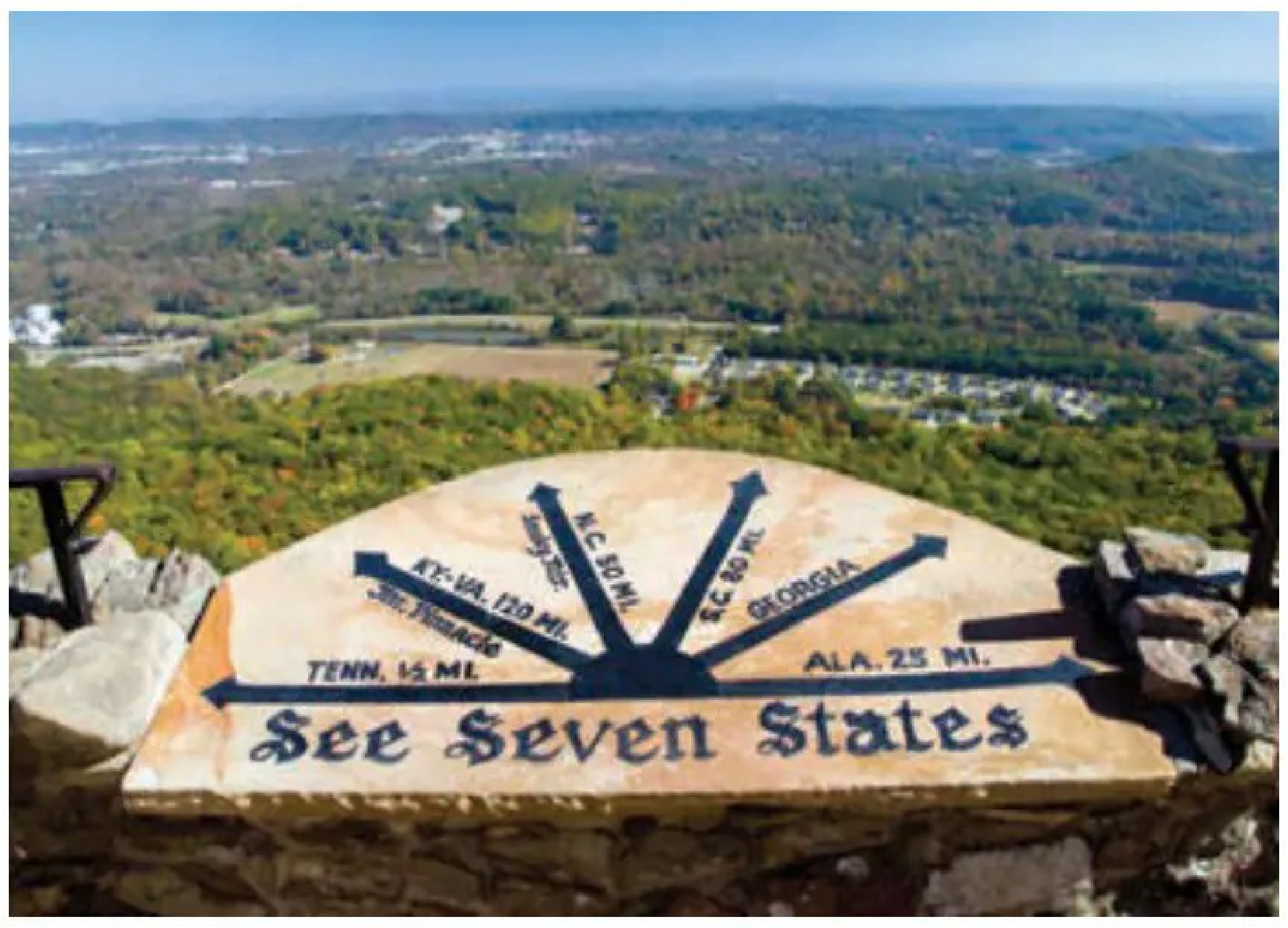
THE SKINNY ON THE LOWDOWN: [Opposite] The tight rock passage that is the Needle's Eye serves as a pinching entryway to the Enchanted Trail. A small sign posted there tells guests to watch for gnomes ahead. [Below] The short fellows in the pointy hats hide just about anywhere.

> **"Frieda took twine in hand and laid out a walking trail through the rock formations… ending her path at Lover's Leap."**

Needles Eye and Swing-A-Low Bridge © Thomas Arthur Repp. Additional images courtesy Rock City Inc.

LOVER'S LEAP

VIEW MASTER: Lover's Leap is arguably Rock City's signature attraction. Its 140-foot waterfall is manmade, but the sweeping views of the surrounding landscape capture nature at its most dramatic. *Photo © Wirestock, Inc.*



GRADING ON A CURVE: [Above] Can the naked eye truly see seven states from Rock City? Perhaps not. On a clear day, mountains in Knoxville can be glimpsed, but the curvature of the earth's surface lowers anything in Kentucky, South Carolina, and Virginia to below the horizon.

GOBLINS UNDERPASS

STACKERS: Stone formations are Rock City's stock in trade. A favorite with youngsters is Goblin's Underpass [above], and intriguing corridor filled with shadows. [Right] The iconic Balanced Rock presents a massive boulder perched precariously atop a smaller one.

of a dream. There, before them, were bursts of wandflower and wild iris, baby's breath and butterfly weed, partridge berry and trailing arbutus. Small birdhouses hung by the dozens on tree limbs, drawing swallows and chickadees from stands of pine and hemlock, sweetgum, birch, and maple. The lichen-spotted, sandstone formations rose from the earth as they do to this day, towering like giant toadstools or balanced like small planets atop smaller, cracking boulders. Stone staircases led feet around seemingly bottomless chasms; skinny passageways pinched shoulders of the more portly, and long tunnels and swinging bridges attracted the adventurous. The main path was dubbed the Enchanted Trail, and it transfixed: "Bordered with gray rocks and surfaced with pine needles and moss, [it] makes accessible every crack, cranny, and crevice in the eight acres," reported the *Chattanooga Times*.

DREAM WEAVERS: [Opposite] The Stone Witch is a mysterious formation that resembles a hook-nosed beldam in profile. [Below] The Hall of the Mountain King contains art installed by Ignis Glass Studio of Chattanooga—in a setting inspired by Henrik Ibsen's play *Peer Gynt* (1867).

The storybook element Frieda had worked to instill seemed to whisper in the rustle of leaves and peep from shadows—when it wasn't standing front and center on tiny, booted feet. "One is not furnished a guide for the journey over the Enchanted Trail" the *Chattanooga News* wrote, "but is told at the entrance that good-natured dwarfs will be waiting to point the places of interest and right direction. These dwarfs are miniature figures...and in their hands have been placed signs designating the points of interest which they mark, such as 'Pulpit Rock,' 'Grand Corridor,' 'Needle's Eye,' 'Pedestal Rock,' 'Lion's Den,' 'Shelter Rock,' 'Ship Rock,'...'Cave of the Winds,' 'Fat Man's Squeeze,' and the 'Stone Witch.'"

Among Rock City's major sights, Lover's Leap earned the most attention for its breathtaking view that seemed to stretch over eternity. But the Stone Witch, too, became a postcard favorite for the wicked figure that it cut. A hulking formation that suggested the face of an old crone in profile, the witch's "nose" was long and hooked, and its "mouth" fitted with a long, black tobacco pipe that served as a workable prop: Flowers were at intervals planted in the bowl so the blooms would resemble the glowing embers of burning flakes. The Stone Witch stood near the head of a section of the trail called "Magic Valley." Guests moving through this hollow soon spied on a shadowy slope the woozy figure of Rip Van Winkle, "awakened from his nap of twenty years," watching with dazed expression the play of gnomes bowling at ten pins. Beyond, in "a barberry

> **"Guests moving through this hollow soon spied on a shadowy slope the woozy figure of Rip Van Winkle...."**

Stone Witch courtesy Brent Moore. States Plaza © Don Smetzer. Goblins Underpass and Hall of the Mountain King © Thomas Arthur Repp. Additional images courtesy Rock City Inc.

DREAM WEAVERS: The storybook dioramas of Fairyland Caverns are introduced by a scene that depicts children succumbing to slumber. The tableau features a dozen fairies on the wing entering the bedroom window and is the most popular scene in the caverns. *Photo © M&N.*

GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES
MOTHER GOOSE RHYMES

CINDERELLA

CASTLE of the GNOMES

THE GNOME TEAM: [Above] Frieda Carter's collection of antique, imported, terra-cotta gnomes are today safely displayed inside Fairyland Caverns. The wee fellows greet guests immediately inside the caverns' entrance before settling into scenes that find them mining gemstones.

WITCH WAY TO GO? [Above] Day-Glo cookies pave the path to the witch's gingerbread house in Fairyland Caverns' diorama of the Brothers Grimm fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel." [Right] Goldilocks seeks a quick exit in the tableau of The Three Bears.

thicket," was discovered a sculpture of Red Riding Hood, carrying her basket of viands for her grandmother and encountering the Big Bad Wolf. Magic Valley was the most storied part of the trail, and it was the section destined to inspire the creation of Fairyland Caverns.

Fairyland Caverns was added to Rock City in 1947. Its creation was made necessary by a need to address an ongoing problem involving the garden gnomes. "People began taking the gnomes out of Rock City and carrying them home," Jackson says of the way the little fellows began disappearing, "and we would get pictures back of these gnomes in other parts of the world. The whole trope about 'traveling gnomes' started here at Rock City when visitors began 'liberating' our sculptures. Fairyland Caverns was developed to preserve our gnomes and get them into a protected environment."

Half natural cave and half roofed ravine, Fairyland Caverns was completed as a long, cool space that led visitors out of the weather and into dark shelter. Its sculptured scenes were set in deep niches ("similar to those found in a medieval church," Jackson suggests). Cinderella, old Rip, and other figures Frieda had originally placed along the Enchanted Trail were plucked from their posts and moved indoors with most of the remaining gnomes. The figures were painted over with Day-Glo colors and bathed in blacklight cast from ultraviolet lamps to make them pop. The use of blacklight inside the Fairyland Caverns galleries were among the first employed by any entity in the American amusement industry. The stunning wash of color earned Rock City fresh ink in the press.

"Every turn presents an ingenious tableau straight from the story books," the *Atlanta Journal* said of the phosphorescent spectacle. "Each little figure and flower glows with luminous paint—clever and colorful! Snow White happily watches the Seven Dwarfs prance across a miniature bridge. Little Red Riding Hood carries her lunch basket covered with a starchy napkin past the lurking Wolf. Mirror Lake has fishes on the ceiling, so they reflect right side up in the water! Grottoes and gnomes,...Rip Van Winkle—you'll be very young in heart, and you'll have a delightful afternoon."

Fairyland Caverns furthered the dream feeling Rock City had achieved by framing its dioramas as pictures envisioned during sleep.

> **"People began taking the gnomes out of Rock City and carrying them home. The whole trope about 'traveling gnomes' started here."**

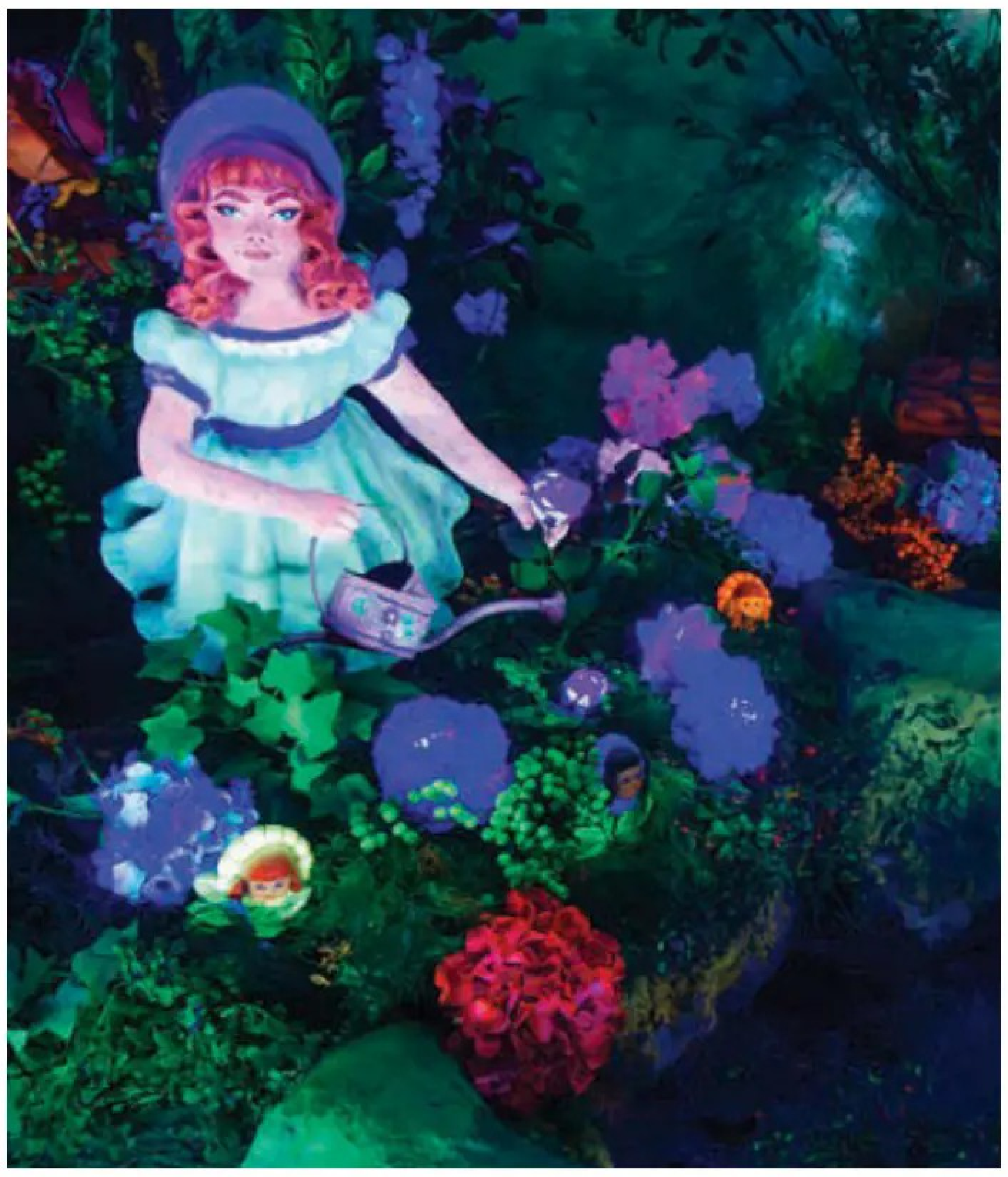
UPSTAGING UNCLE WALT: [Opposite and below] In the 1950s, Fairyland Caverns was often compared to Disneyland. "We have something like this in California," one West Coast visitor told the *Chattanooga Times* in 1957. "There also we see the characters out of the fairy stories. But it is not as beautiful as this…."

Gnomes © Jared D. Additional images © Thomas Arthur Repp.

RIP-VAN WIN

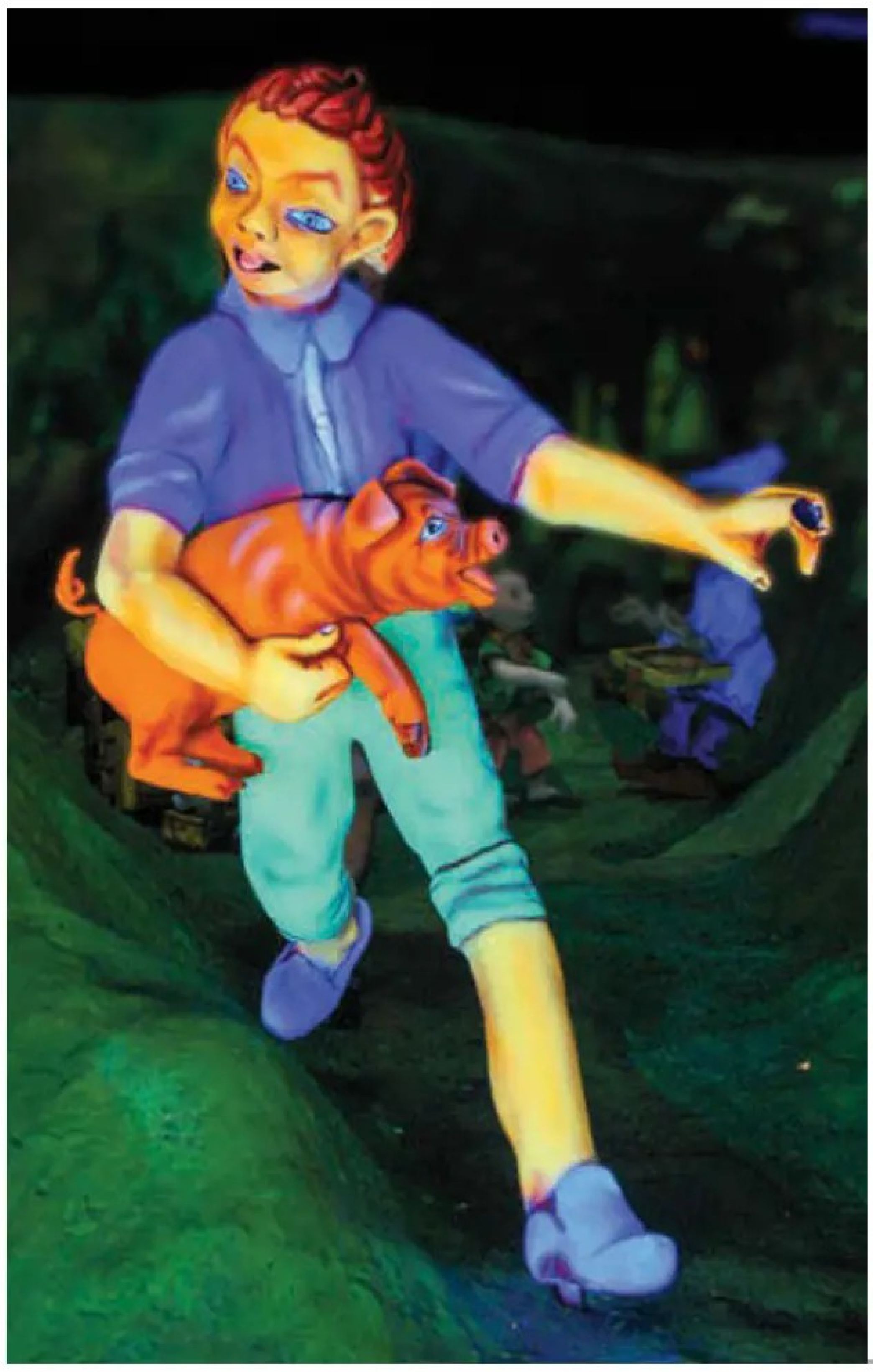
THE GNOMES GOT HIM: Rip Van Winkle is one of the oldest figures displayed inside Fairyland Caverns. The sculpture was originally placed outside along the Enchanted Trail. When the caverns were developed to protect Frieda's gnomes from the elements, the old fellow was brought underground with them. *Photo © Thomas Arthur Repp.*

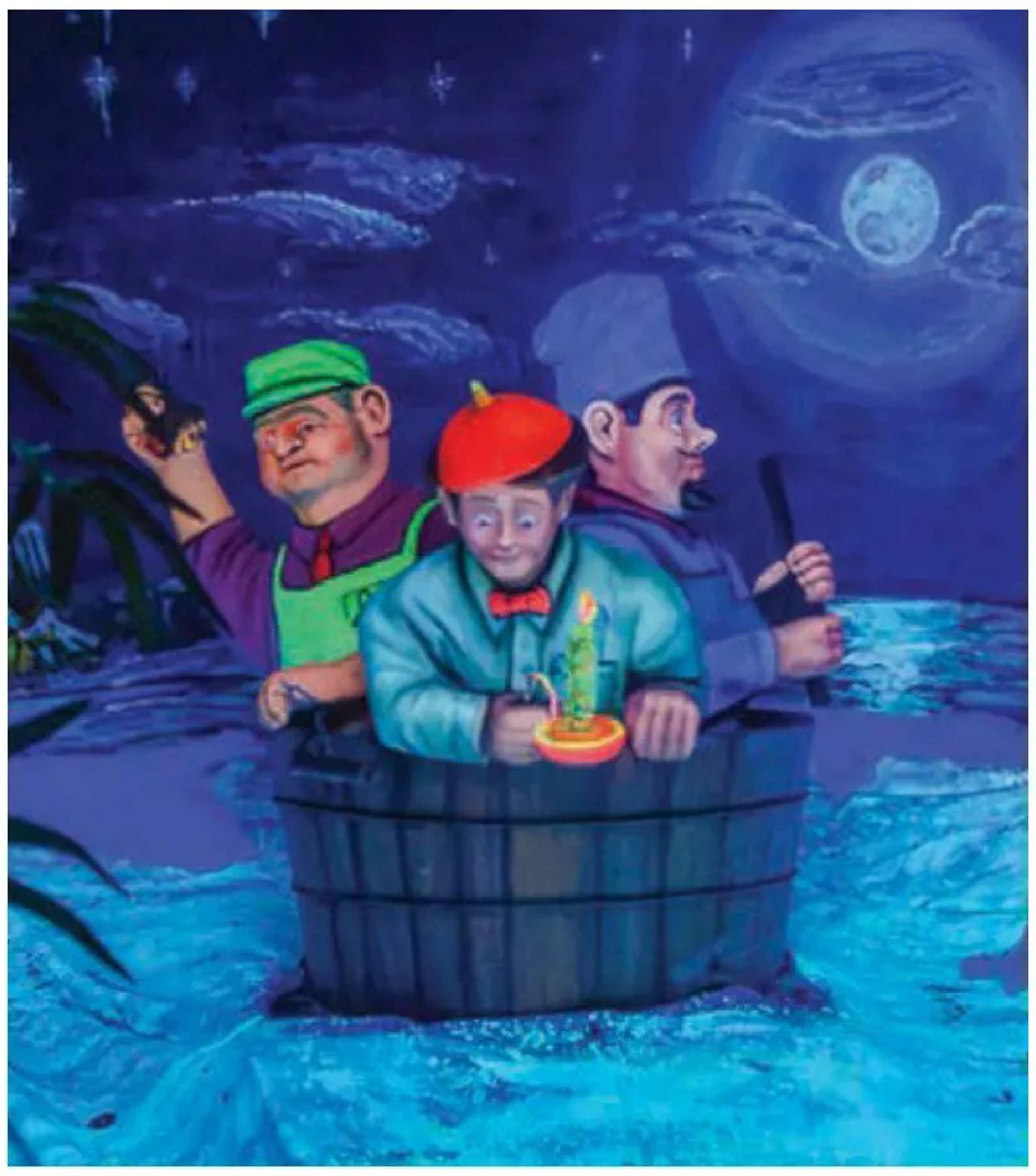
HEY,
DIDDLE, DIDDLE!
The cat and the fiddle,
the cow jumped over the moon;
the little dog laughed to see
such sport,
and the dish ran away
with the spoon.



RHYMES AND REASONS: [Above] Atlanta-based artist Jesse Sanders works on her model for Mother Goose Village at her Rock City studio. Her attention to detail was so precise that she even sculpted tiny human faces onto the flowers in Mary Quite Contrary's garden [above, left].

BARNYARD FOLLIES: [Opposite] A cow jumps over a sanguine moon, and a dapper dish runs away with a prim spoon in "Hey, Diddle, Diddle," one of the more popular nursery rhymes depicted in Mother Goose Village. [Below] Tom Tom the Piper's son and his stolen pig are sleeper favorites.





LIVE STREAMING: From its opening in spring 1956, Mother Goose Village was advertised as "The World's Largest Nursery Rhyme Display." It was praised as "a wondrous land where waterfall and stream sparkle with radiant water." [Above] The Three Men in a Tub set sail in their own nook.

Beyond the caverns' entryway—and a gateway passage that presented the relocated gnomes digging for gemstones in a diamond corridor—its first tableaus embraced a narrative that made plain this interpretation: The first presented a mother and her children dressed in nightclothes and slippers, sitting in an armchair before a blazing fireplace and reading bedtime stories from a book of nursery tales. The second saw those same children tucked into their beds and on the verge of entering dreamland. Small, winged fairies in gossamer tutus flitted into the room through an open window, carrying star-topped wands, eager to lead the slumbering tots toward a horizon aglow with a castle bordering the Land of Nod.

This second scene often plunged guests into a nostalgic reverie, so perfectly did it capture those twinkling moments between twilight and slumber, childhood and that point in one's life when adult worries weigh down nightly flights of fancy. Today, the tableau continues to evoke strong emotions, nearly eighty years after it was installed.

"I'd say that scene with the sleeping children and the fairies rushing toward them is the most popular in Fairyland Caverns," Jackson says. "People have strong reactions to that scene. Most people love it; some people don't like it but find themselves attracted to it anyway. It receives a lot of attention, I believe because it says a lot about growing up."

Rock City fit the final pieces of its storybook puzzle together place in 1964, when it opened Mother Goose Village. Artist Jesse Sanders of Atlanta, who had earlier been enlisted to add new fairy tale characters to the older ones repainted for display inside Fairyland Caverns, was commissioned to create dozens of sculptures of nursery rhyme characters for the new exhibit. In an art studio still in use at Rock City, she cast near-life-size figures of Little Boy Blue, Little Miss Muffet, and the rest of the well-known, peas-and-porridge gang. She fashioned Humpty Dumpty as an enormous egg wearing a wide grin that seemed to promise young and old that childhood could go on for forever.

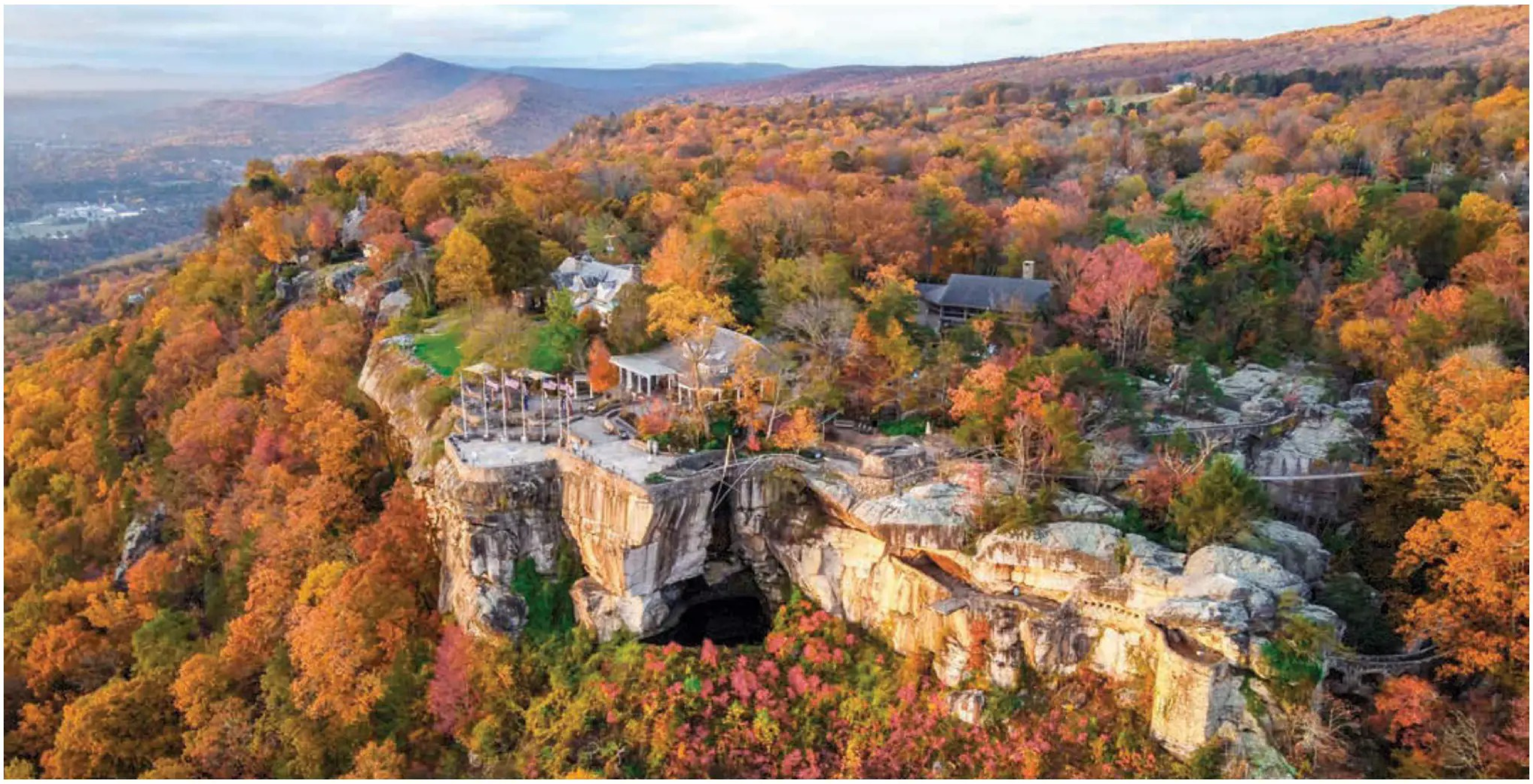
> “Rock City fit the final pieces of its storybook puzzle together in 1964, when it opened Mother Goose Village.”

Jesse Sanders photo courtesy Rock City Gardens, Inc. Tom the Piper's Son courtesy James Emery. Additional images © Thomas Arthur Repp.

LIGHT BRIGHT Ultraviolet or "black" light is employed throughout Mother Goose Village to give the figures added visual oomph. The Crooked Man walks a fluorescent mile; Wee Willie Winkie jogs through a glowing town, and Little Boy Blue somehow manages to snooze despite all the eye-popping colors. *Photo © Thomas Arthur Repp.*

WEE WILLIE WINKIE
JACK & JILL
went up the hill,
to fetch a pail of water;
Jack fell down and broke
his crown, and Jill came
tumbling after.

THERE WAS AN OLD WOMAN
MICE!
PETER, PETER, PUMPKIN EATER,
Had a wife and couldn't keep her; He put her in a pumpkin shell, and there he kept her very well.



FOREVER FANTASY: [Above] Now fast heading toward its centennial, Rock City remains as enchanting and awe-inspiring as it was on the day that it opened. If stones and fairy tales are truly timeless, the venerable attraction may be only beginning its popular reign.

Mother Goose Village remains remarkable for its use of water. From its central mountain, atop which stands a twelve-foot castle, two waterways descend. They fall in cascades near the fancy cottage whereto Mr. Froggy is headed to court Miss Mousie and the big brown brogue whereat the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe is chiding her children. They wind past the poor scholar of "A Diller, A Dollar" and skirt the stone well of "Ding Dong, Bell." They continue toward the houses of the Three Little Pigs and the flowerbeds of Mary Quite Contrary before ducking underground to begin their circuits anew.

"All the waterways were created with copper basins to protect the scenery," Jackson says. "The entire Mother Goose Village has a wooden structure with a lath and plaster sculpt on top. When you are underneath it, the copper plumbing running in all directions makes you feel you are inside a submarine. The central reservoir holds maybe four hundred to five hundred gallons. The water is filled with UV-reactive dyes so the streams glow in the dark." Jackson notes that planning for the water course was so thorough that water even spills continuously from the lip of Jack and Jill's dropped pail.

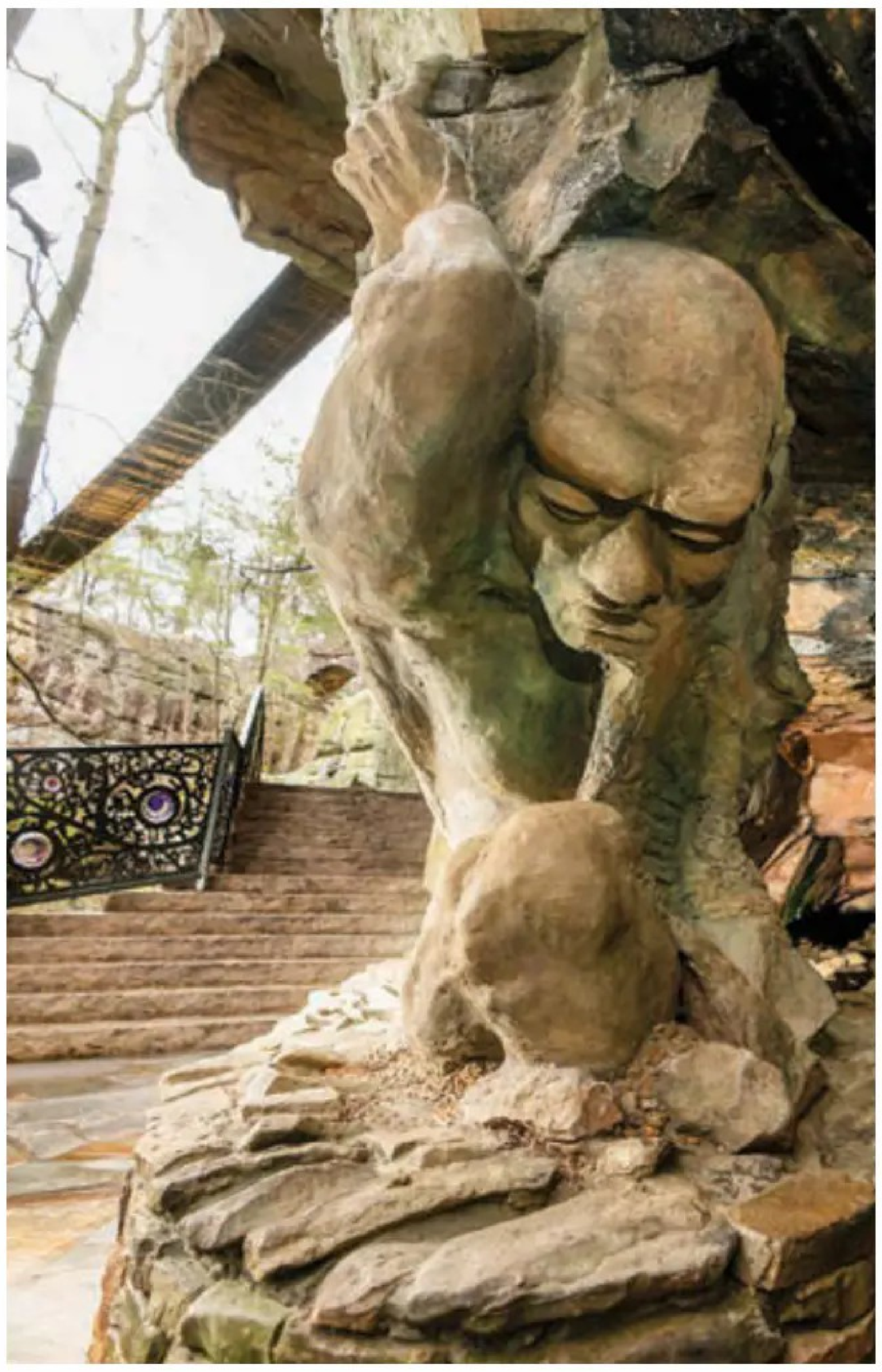
Oddly enough, the elaborate watercourse at Mother Goose Village does not serve the rub-a-dub figures of the Three Men in a Tub tableau. The butcher, baker, and candlestick maker appear in a separate niche tucked near the attraction's exit, heading out to sea in their rickety cask, rising and falling on a swell in the ocean courtesy of mechanisms that roll the floor. Beyond this wayward trio, visitors leave the blacklight behind. They step out doors and back into the sunshine to seek out whatever additional visions Rock City holds in store.

News reporter Howard Goshorn passed through that exit in 1971. As he departed, he remained distracted, still searching his thoughts to pinpoint what seemed wrong about the Mother Goose Village's presentation of Humpty Dumpty. Yet try as he might, he couldn't put a finger on his complaint until he'd returned to his office and began punching the keys of his typewriter. As he wrote up a review of what he'd seen that day, he realized he'd been so charmed in the presence of Mother Goose and company that he'd overlooked the obvious: It wasn't the egg *per se* that had troubled him; it was the height of the egg's wall.

"Humpty Dumpty had a great fall," Goshorn reminded readers in the *Daily Press* of Newport News. "If he did, the wall had to be higher than this one. Was Humpty Dumpty really a chicken egg or just one laid by Mother Goose?"

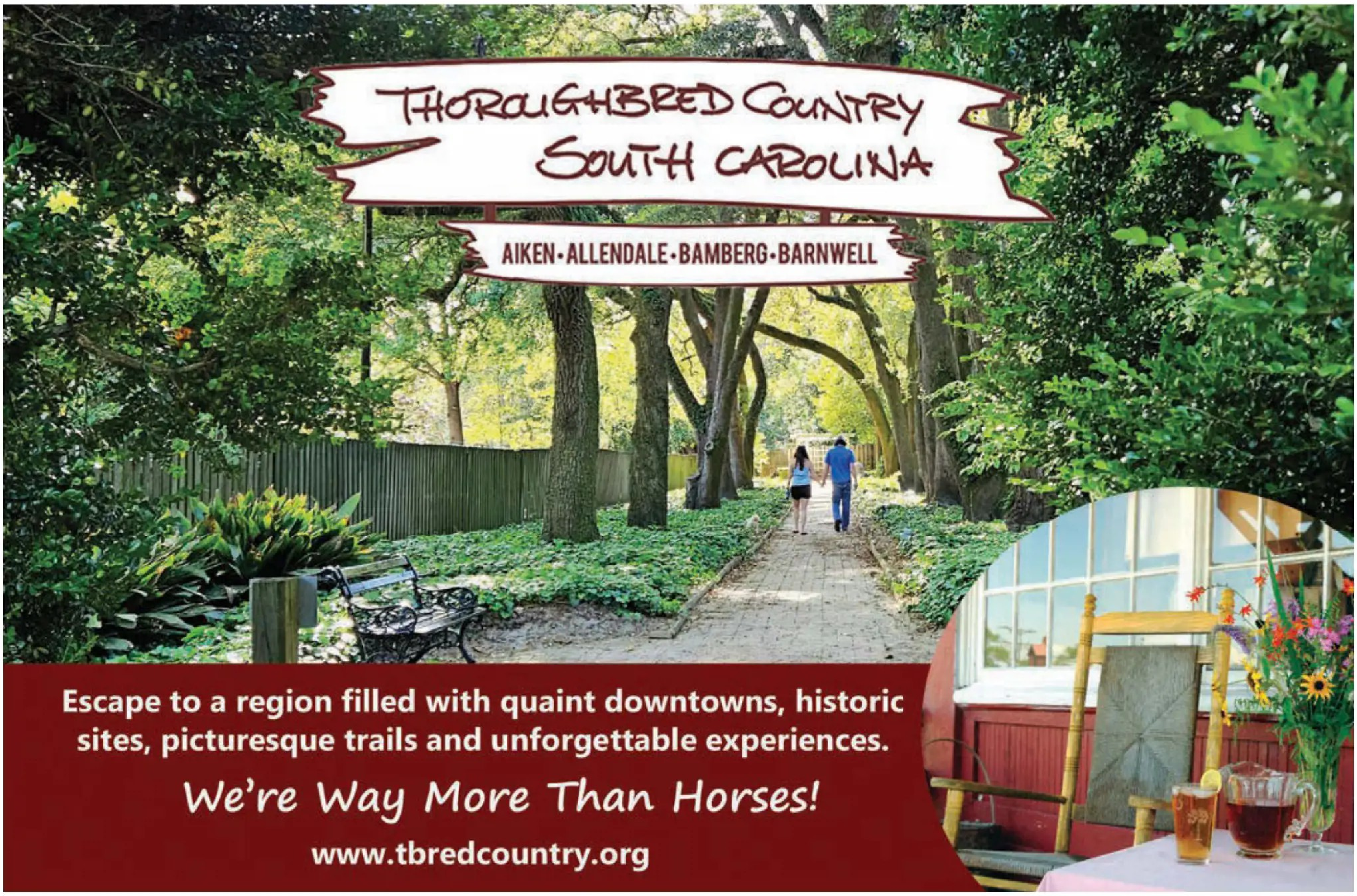
Goshorn stopped short of recommending to Mr. Dumpty that he could find taller walls with bigger views outside. He figured that was part of the story that everyone already knew.

ROCKING ON: [Opposite] Gnomes still greet visitors to Fairyland Caverns and cluster at red doors along the Enchanted Trail, but new creatures are being introduced to Rock City. The sculpture *Ibsen the Troll* [below] is a larger-than-life stone ogre installed on the grounds in 2021.



Images courtesy Rock City Inc.

THOMAS ARTHUR REPP is the Editorial Director at AMERICAN ROAD.



THOROUGHBRED COUNTRY
SOUTH CAROLINA
AIKEN•ALLENDALE•BAMBERG•BARNWELL

Escape to a region filled with quaint downtowns, historic sites, picturesque trails and unforgettable experiences.

We're Way More Than Horses!

www.tbredcountry.org

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY IS JUST A CLICK AWAY.

www.escapetothesoutheast.com

SOUTHEAST
TOURISM SOCIETY

American Road meets
Glacier's Route 66 chocolate
Satisfy every roadie's chocolate and road trip dreams!

14-piece
Route 66 Gourmet Chocolate Gift Box
(Includes shipping)

ROY'S
ROUTE 66
MOTHER ROAD
AMERICAN ROAD
Blue Swallow MOTEL
NEON ROUTE 66

Gift Set
JUST $75 + tax
Includes:
- 14 chocolates
- 1-year (4 issues) American Road (Print) (Shipping included)

Order Now for the Holidays!
1-877-285-5434 x2
Americanroadmagazine.com

MISSISSIPPI BLUES COMMISSION
THE BLUE FRONT
BLUE FRONT CAFE

VISIT YAZOO

WWW.VISITYAZOO.ORG

explore outdoors
32.4239,
-90.0883
Natchez
Trace Parkway
the scenic route
explore
RIDGELAND

Time to go outside! Need a hand finding the right place to play? We can help at **exploreRidgeland.com**.

Pied Piper of Bedford County
Schellsburg, Pennsylvania

BY **POP AMHEARST**

The Pied Piper. Now, there was a character with more than his share of storybook problems.

For starters, his clothes were unfashionably "pied"—or, in other words, multicolored, patchy, and clashing—as if the duds had been stitched together by some addled little tailor who'd swatted one giant too many. He was an accomplished flautist (fat lot that impressed Old King Cole) but the only job he could land was that of a seasonal rat catcher. And even then, when he performed his task well (which he reliably did), he was, as a matter of routine, obliged to await payment that was remitted at a snail's pace. In the meantime, he was left to ransom the burg's *kinder*—grubby, chubby, mouth-breathing brats with fingers stinking of pork sausages. The kids were so obnoxious that the town fathers who had sired them seldom seemed to want the boogers back.

For all of these reasons, the Pied Piper comes across as the ultimate loner in the tales of Brothers Grimm. He's awkward and unsociable, a man who craves space—which is why it seems fitting that Pennsylvania drivers come upon him alone, standing at road's edge on the fringe of a forest just west of the borough of Schellsburg, There, he towers over a stretch of US 30 that was once the old Lincoln Highway. He measures eighteen feet from the bottoms of his curled crackows to the tip of his Peter Pan cap, and he clutches a flute that looks more like a clarinet. Area old-timers swear they've heard music issuing from the mouth of that instrument. In the quiet of this countryside, who could doubt their ears?

The Pied Piper of Bedford County (for so he is styled nowadays) is the sole surviving act of what was once an impressive ensemble. The fanciful figure was one of many made to grace Storyland—a roadside kiddie park of the kind that was popular in the days when tots still recited nursery rhymes. Storyland opened to visitors in the 1950s. It was filled with characters and wonderful structures inspired by Mother Goose and company. Period brochures advertise its Little Pig's House of Brick, Humpty Dumpty's Wall, and the Gingerbread House that doubled as a concession stand. The Old Woman's Shoe, Crooked Man's Crooked House, and Old MacDonald's Farm rounded out the headliners, with "Mary's Little Lamb and her playmate, Ba Ba Black Sheep" as the stars and pettable attractions of the last.

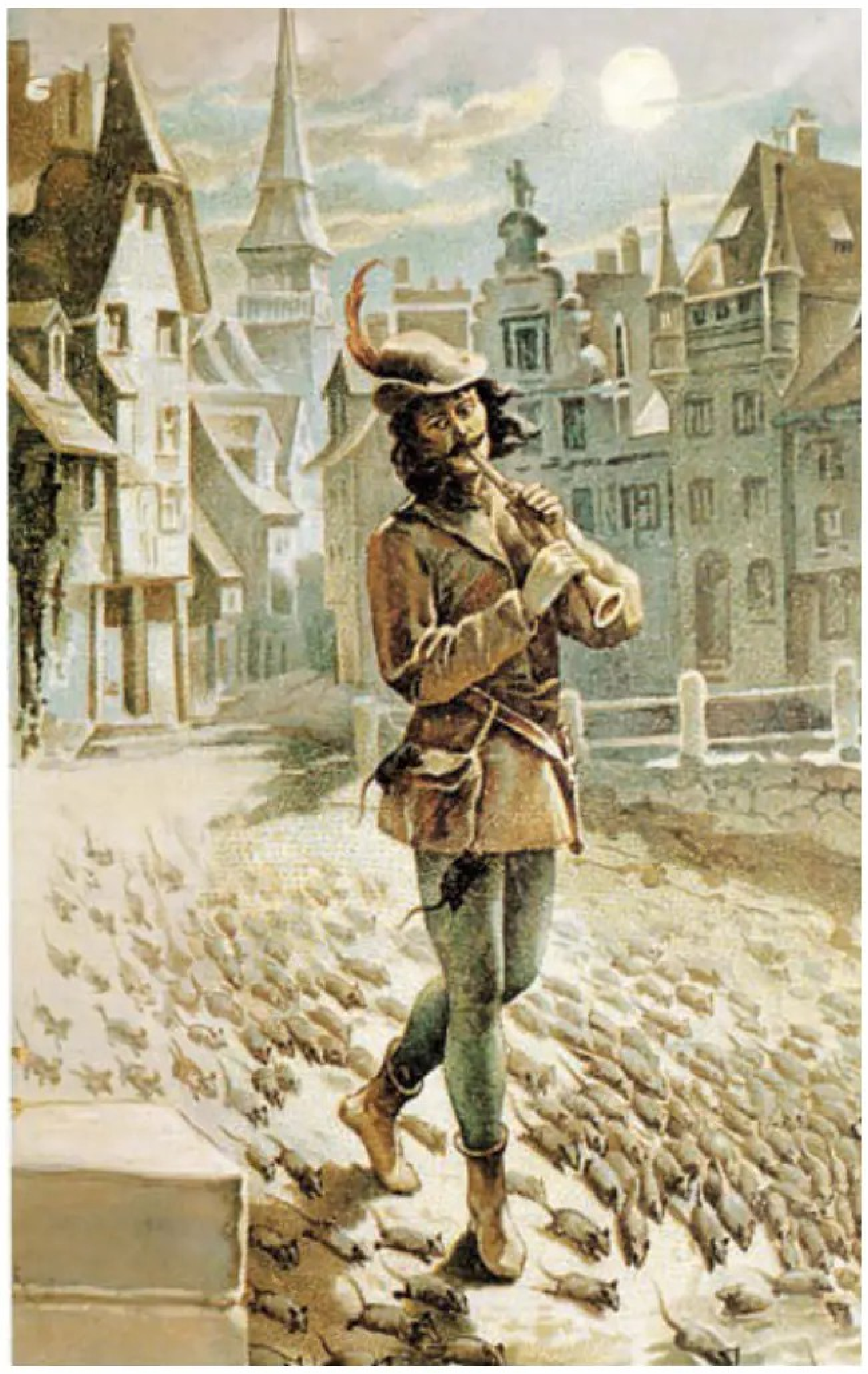
It's a Land of Make Believe...overlooking beautiful Shawnee Lake the enticing flyers promised. Lincoln Highway travelers pulled over in droves to see for themselves. And the Piper was there, standing at the entrance with a walk-through castle behind him, beckoning all with his Renaissance woodwind.

Storyland was owned and operated by Schellsburg resident Lee Young and his wife, Leora. Newspaper clippings suggest the couple were quiet contributors to their community, welcoming school children and camp kids to their bucolic fantasyland. But over the decades, the world grew up, and Storyland failed to grow with it. The park closed in the 1980s, and one of the Youngs' adult children opened a craft store on site, using the Piper as a final herald. The castle behind the Piper was razed, and other pieces of the old park—farm, shoe, and Dumpty wall—were simply swallowed by the trees. Some of the abandoned structures are visible when the leaves fall away in the autumn—not the least impressive of which is a long concrete whale that forever awaits Jonah. Yet approaching these remnants is *verboten*: The land is private property, and the parade's gone by.

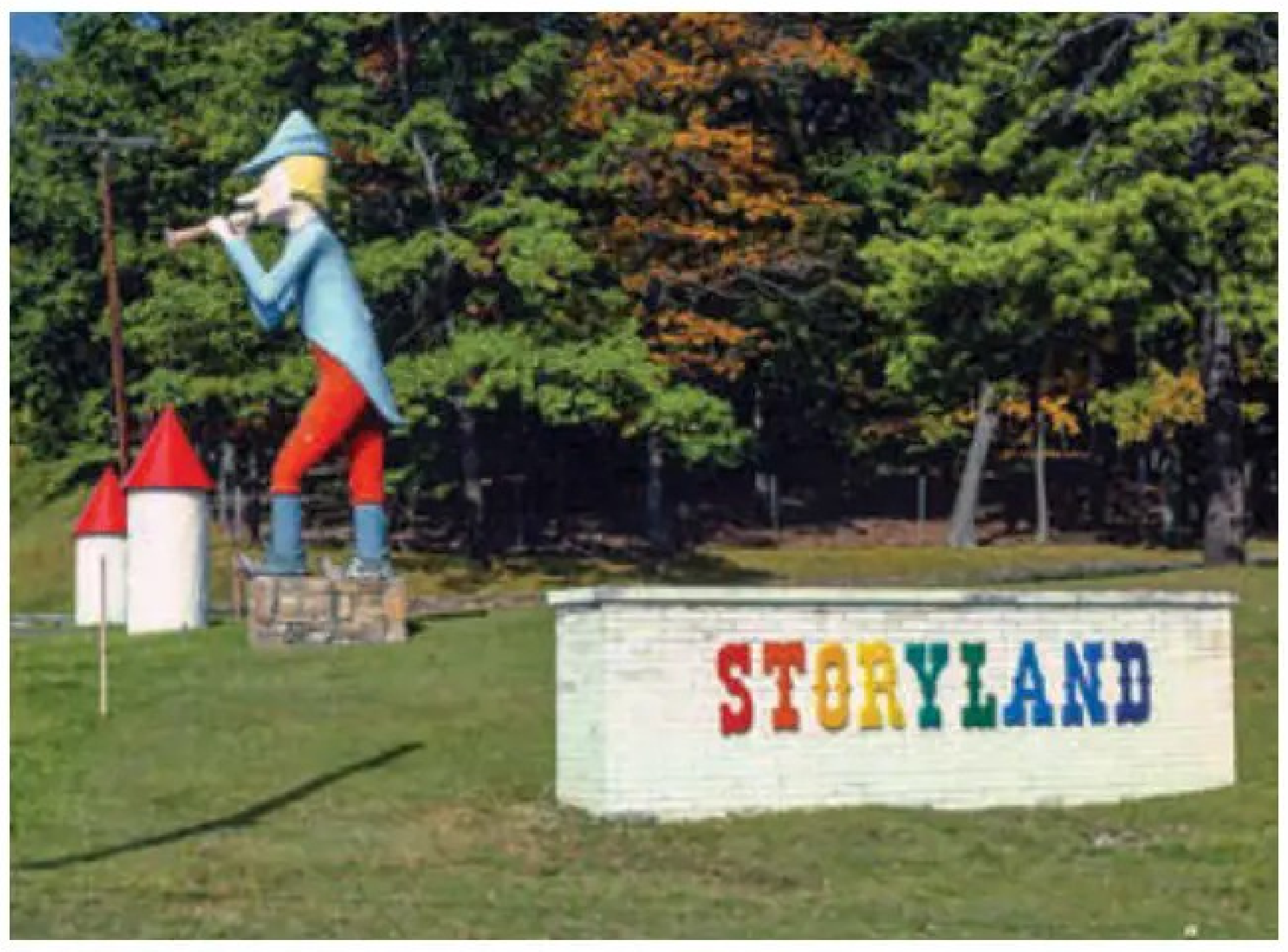
That leaves the Piper, and he is still accessible. He'll tolerate a quick pic if you don't dawdle or ask him about rats. Still pied in his attire, he is well maintained if not dapper. The expression on his face suggests he may even have grown to miss all the noisy kids who once troubled him with their requests for popcorn, fingers stinking of gingerbread. Just don't expect him to toot his flute for you.

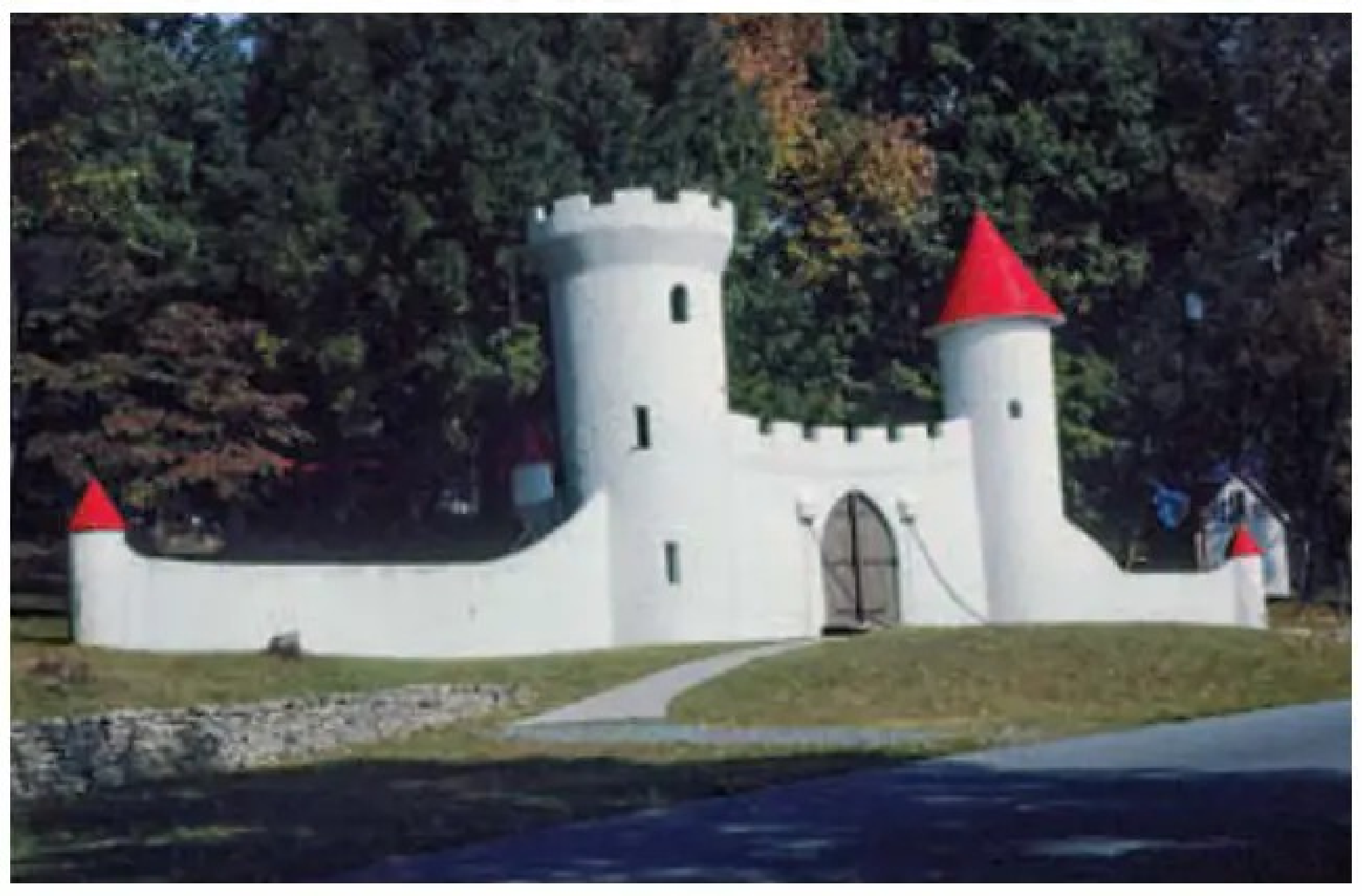
He learned that gig doesn't pay a long, long time ago.

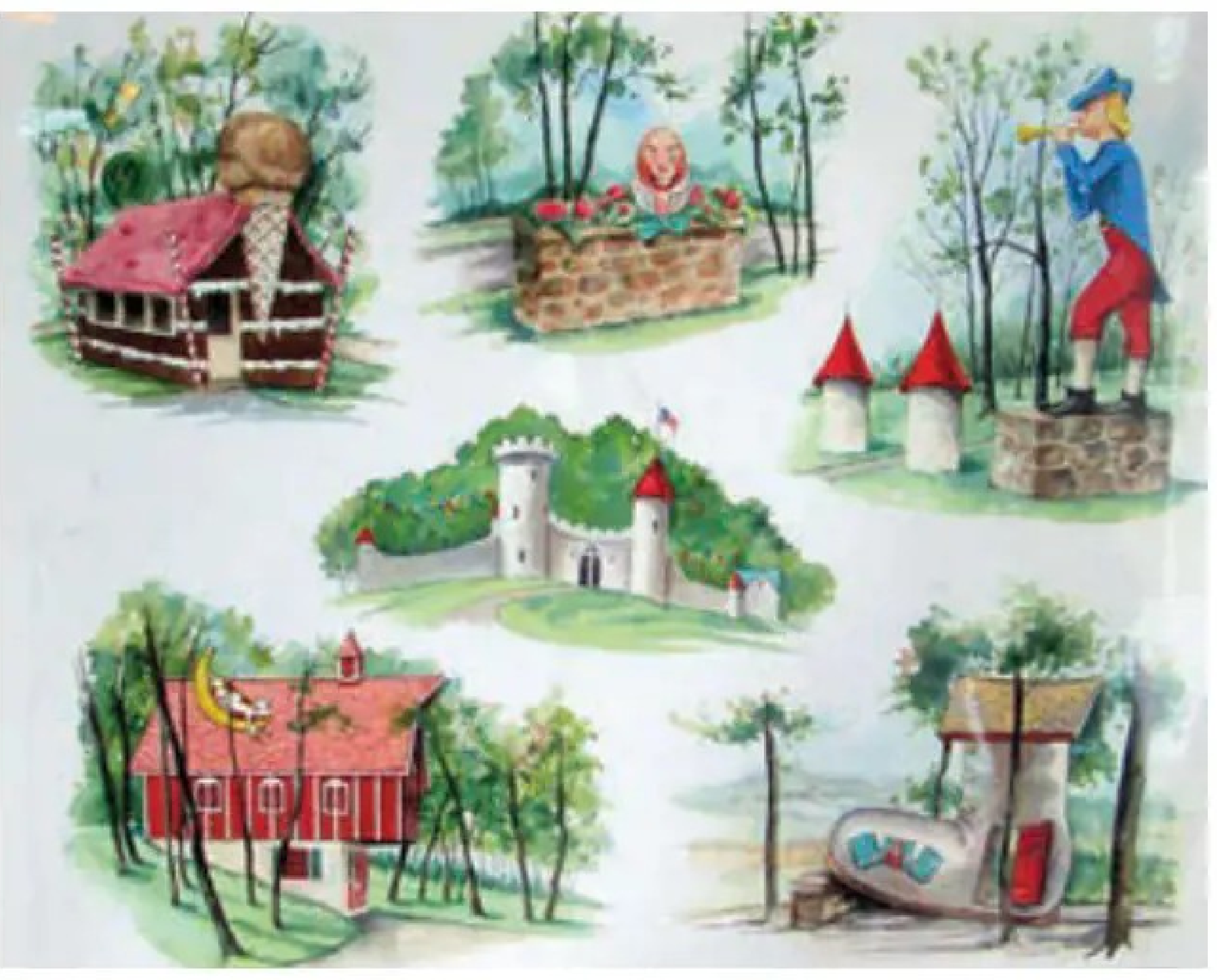
POP AMHEARST is an author based in Washington State and a Department Editor at AMERICAN ROAD. Large photo © William Sherman. Vintage photos by John Margolies, courtesy Library of Congress.



SOLO ARTIST: [Above] The Pied Piper as depicted on a 1930s bookplate and [opposite] as he appears at the old entrance to Storyland. [Below] The Storyland sign and castle no longer exist. [Bottom] Vintage advertising material from the park prominently features the colorful musician.







Pied Piper of Bedford County • 3565 Lincoln Highway • Schellsburg, Pennsylvania 15559

BENBOW
HISTORIC INN

445 Lake Benbow Drive,
Garberville, California 95542
1-707-923-2124

Plan your California
Redwood Coast adventure!
benbowinn.com

Wilson Lake • Post Rock Scenic Byway • The Grassroots Art Capital • Historic Attractions • Murals and more!

FIND YOUR ADVENTURE
IN RUSSELL COUNTY, KANSAS!

Scan Me!

GUS'S WORLD FAMOUS FRIED CHICKEN

"THE BEST FRIED CHICKEN IN THE WORLD"
-GQ.

102 N Sycamore St,
Downtown Santa Ana

1430 Broadway,
Downtown Oakland

2022 THE BEST OF THE SOUTHLAND LA Times

@gusfriedca

Travel OKLAHOMA TravelOK.com

Rise

GREEN COUNTRY TOURISM

HOP IN THE CAR FOR A HOLIDAY CRUISE

GARDEN of LIGHTS Honor Heights Park

VISIT MUSKOGEE

Castle Muskogee, OK Christmas

TWO PARKS, ONE TRIP

OPENS THANKSGIVING DAY

READY FOR AN AUTUMN ADVENTURE?

JOIN IN ON THE

FALL FESTIVITIES

IN CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA

DINING • SHOPPING • ATTRACTIONS • EVENTS • AND SO MUCH MORE!

Travel OKLAHOMA TravelOK.com

VISIT CLAREMORE OKLAHOMA

GREEN COUNTRY TOURISM GreenCountryOK.com

PLAN YOUR VISIT AT

VISITCLAREMORE.COM/EVENTS

MARLAND MANSION

Expect the Unexpected! PONCA City OKLAHOMA

Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm
901 Monument Road
Ponca City, OK

580-767-0420 • MarlandMansion.com

MARLAND GRAND HOME
AMERICAN INDIAN MUSEUM

Expect the Unexpected! PONCA City OKLAHOMA

Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm
1000 East Grand
Ponca City, OK

580-767-0427 • MarlandGrandHome.com

GREEN COUNTRY TOURISM

Request your FREE Guides
Northeast Oklahoma's Green Country
GREENCOUNTRYOK.COM •

Travel OKLAHOMA TravelOK.com

Museum Pieces

A NEW LOOK AT OLD TREASURES

• BY ROBERT KLARA

"The Real Winnie-the-Pooh"

If you were somehow able to go back to the summer of 1914 and stand where 42nd Street intersects Times Square, you'd not just be standing at the proverbial crossroads of the world, but the place where a famous building on a famous road would meet a famous bear—though you wouldn't know that last part just yet.

In the summer of 1914, the Lincoln Highway (42nd Street from Times Square to the Hudson River was its first mile) was just a few months old. Slightly older—though not by much—was a Beaux-Arts confection of white marble standing on 42nd Street just to the east—the main branch of the New York Public Library.

As for the bear, well, that requires some explaining. In the summer of 1914, shortly after Great Britain entered World War I, one Lieutenant Harry Colebourn—a veterinary officer en route to Europe with his 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade—purchased an orphaned bear cub at the train station in White River, Ontario. Every regiment deserves a mascot and, to Colebourn's thinking, a dog or a cat just wouldn't do for his.

The lieutenant named the bear cub Winnie, after his hometown of Winnipeg, and this ursine pet traveled to England with his owner.

Did the bear cub make it to the Lincoln Highway? No—but his namesake would.

That unlikely feat would take another seventy-three years after the summer of 1914, however, so it's a good thing that our story is set in the present day, when anyone can climb the steps of the library, walk through two sets of bronze doors, and come face to face with Winne-the-Pooh.

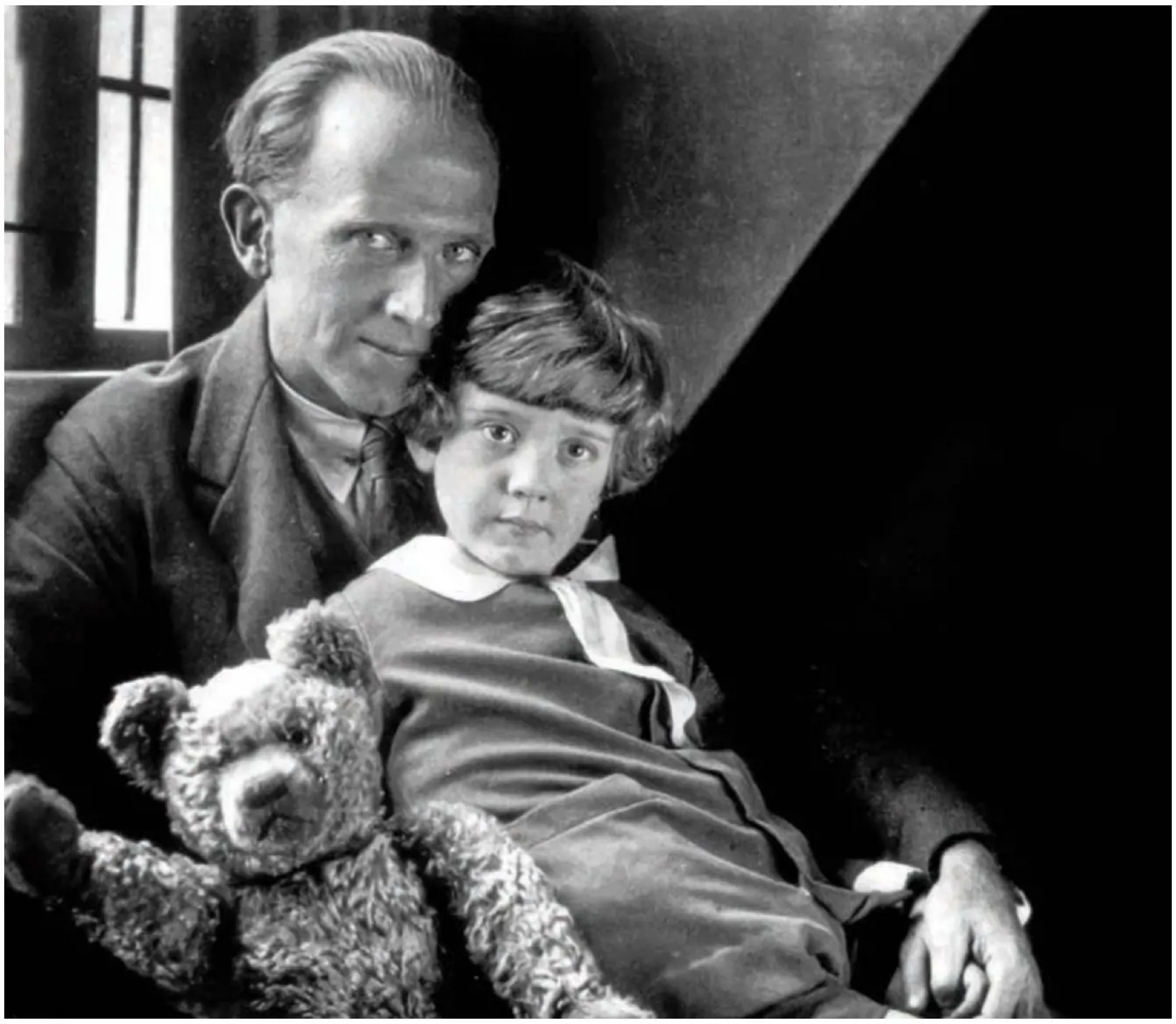
WINNIE-THE-POOH AND HIS STUFFED FRIENDS are on view in the Children's Center at the New York Public Library, 455 5th Avenue, New York, New York 10016. For more information, phone (917) 275-6975.

We mean the real one, the teddy bear that once belonged to a real-life boy named Christopher Robin.

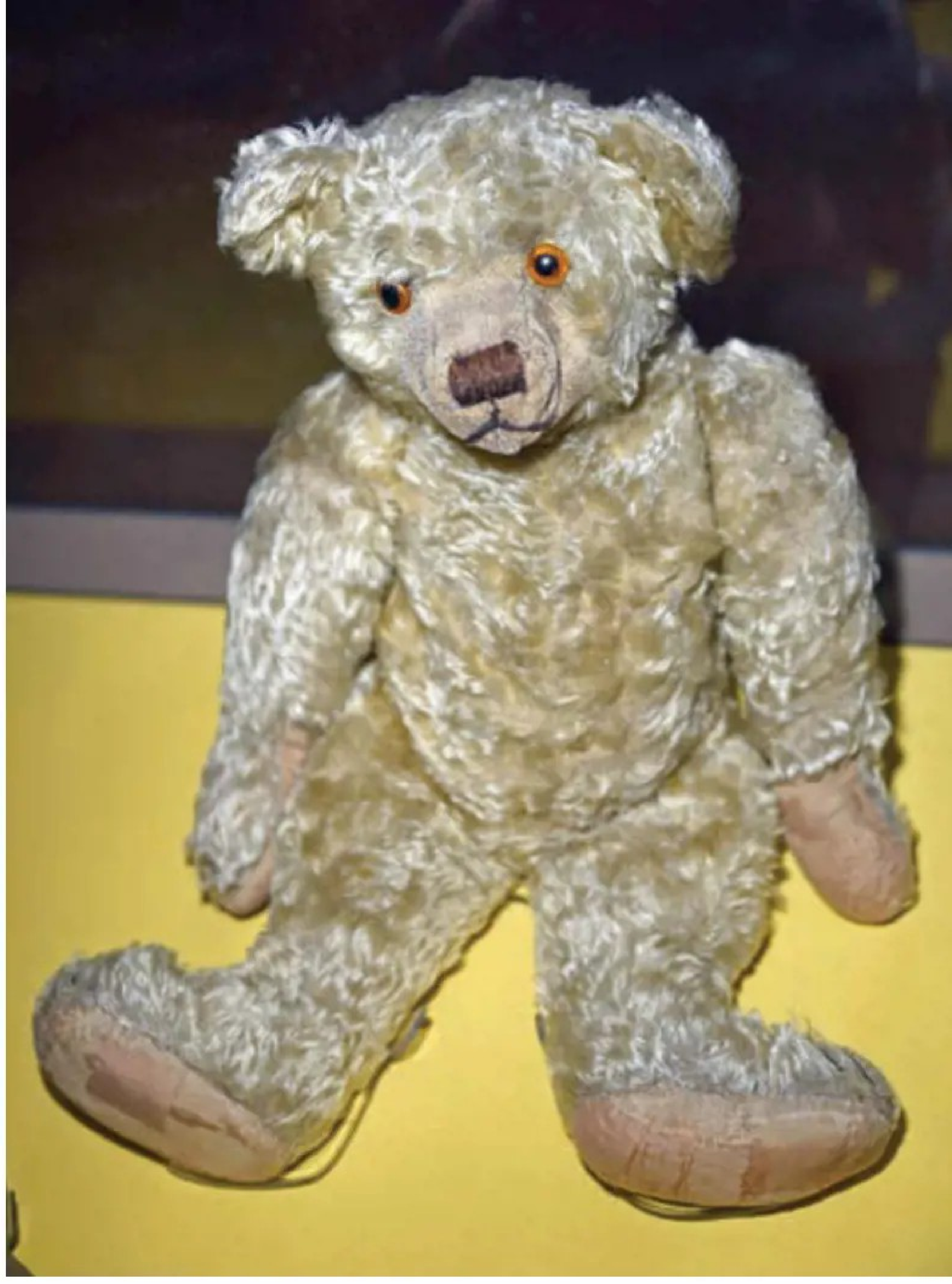
"These stuffed animals, which inspired the Winnie-the-Pooh stories, are incredibly popular with our visitors, many of whom have wonderful childhood memories of both the book and trips to their library branch," says a library spokesperson. But that, now, is getting ahead of ourselves in our tale.

INTO THE HUNDRED ACRE WOOD

Alan Alexander Milne was a British humorist and novelist whose appointment with destiny would come with the birth of his son, Christopher Robin Milne, in 1920. The boy was an only child—mostly raised by his nanny—who was plied with presents from a father too frequently absent. On Christopher's first birthday, Milne gifted him a posh J. K. Farnell teddy bear purchased at Harrods in London. Christopher named his bear Edward and responded so lovingly to it that Milne bought the lad more stuffed animals: a donkey named Eeyore, a piglet named Piglet, and a kangaroo and joey named Kanga and Roo. A plush tiger named Tigger rounded out the group in 1927.



HOUSE ON POOH CORNER: [Left] Author A. A. Milne poses with son Christopher Robin and the Winnie-the-Pooh teddy in 1926. Pooh as a character made his literary debut in Milne's poem, "Teddy Bear," published in the February 13, 1924, edition of *Punch*.



BEAR MARKET: The teddy that became Winnie-the-Pooh was purchased from the toy department at Harrods of London by Daphne Milne, wife of A. A. Milne, as a birthday present for their son, Christopher Robin. It was made by toy manufacturer Farnell and cost 13 shillings and a penny (about £27 in today's money).

Watching his little boy playing with his plush menagerie inspired Milne to try his hand at writing for children, conjuring stories that would anthropomorphize the stuffed animals as residents of the Hundred Acre Wood, a fictional landscape based on Ashdown Forest near the Milne home in Sussex. The first book to feature the bear, *When We Were Very Young* (1924), was an immediate hit when it appeared. Three more books would follow, the best-known being *Winnie-the-Pooh* (1926).

Milne was a fine writer, and his prose continues to enchant adults as well as children. But it was his son who deserves the credit for changing the starring bear's name from Edward to Winnie.

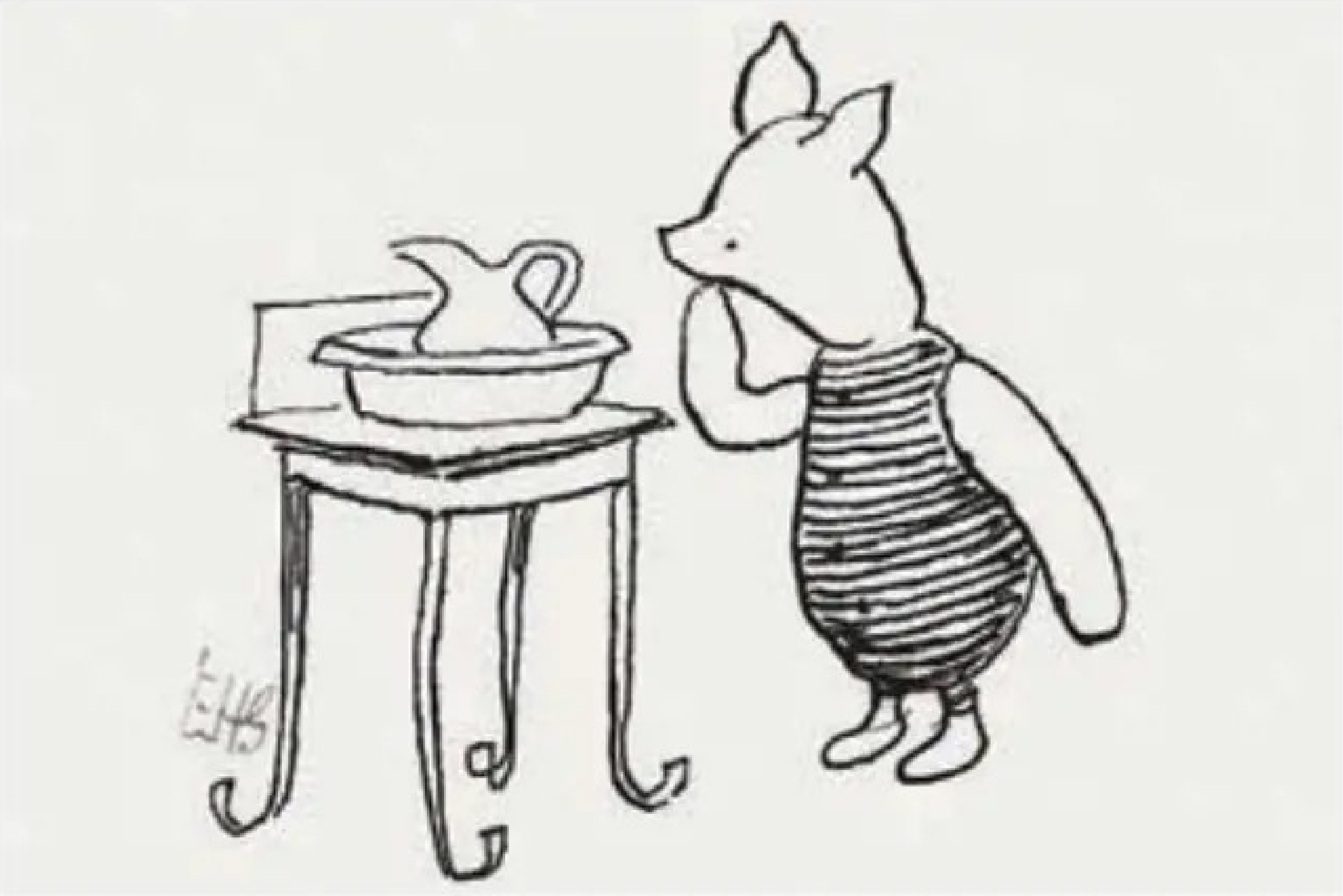
Once Lieutenant Harry Colebourn's infantry unit had reached London, it was clear that a bear cub couldn't accompany the men to the Western Front, so Winnie took up residence at the London Zoo. Ten years later, when Christopher Robin visited the zoo with his father, he was so smitten with the bear that Edward became Winnie. "Pooh" was originally the lad's name for the zoo's swan. ("This is a very fine name for a swan," Milne wrote later, "because, if you call him and he doesn't come (which is a thing swans are good at), then you can pretend that you were just saying 'Pooh!' to show how little you wanted him.")

A honey-loving star was born, and we all know how that turned out.

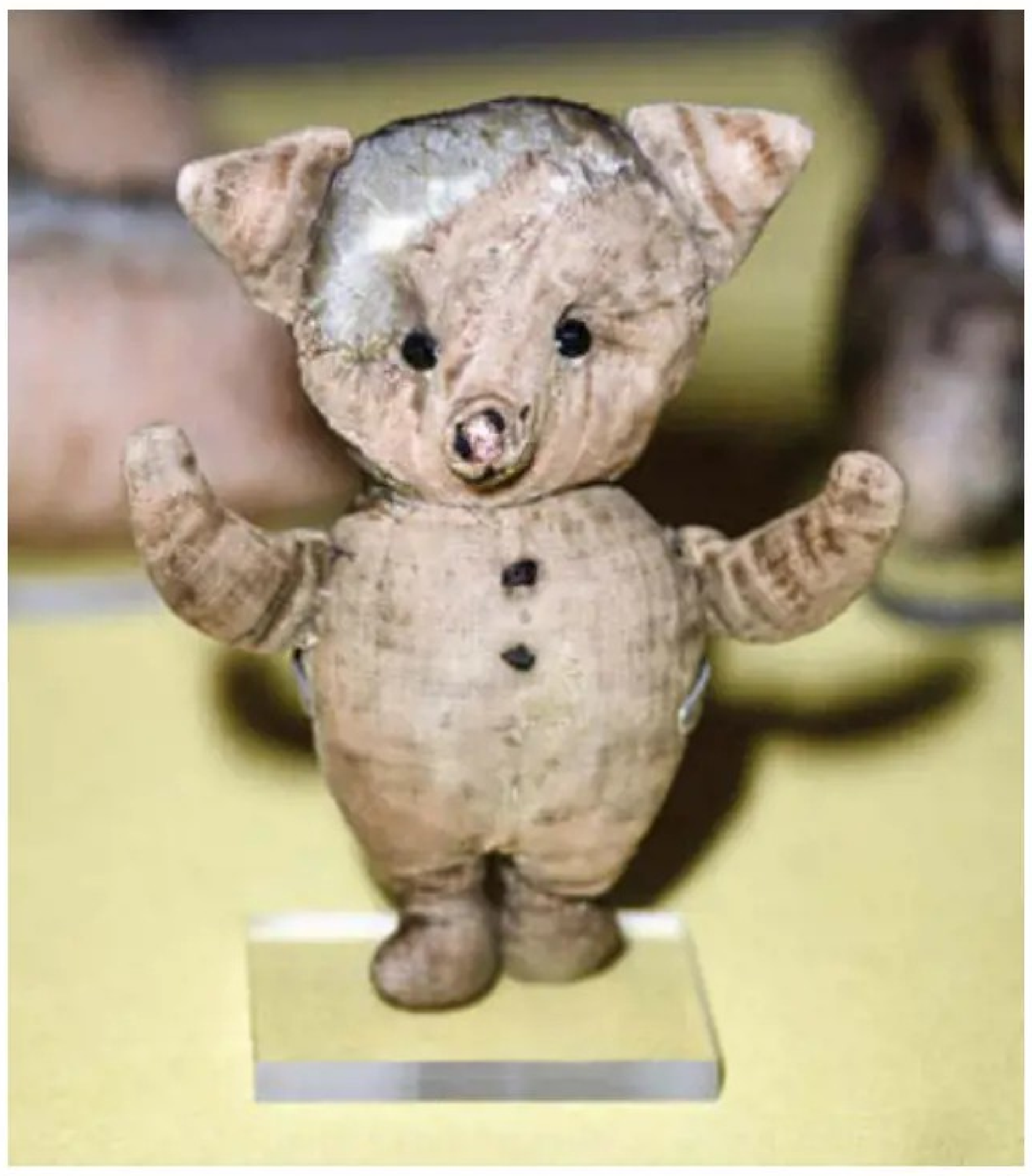
N IS FOR NEW YORK

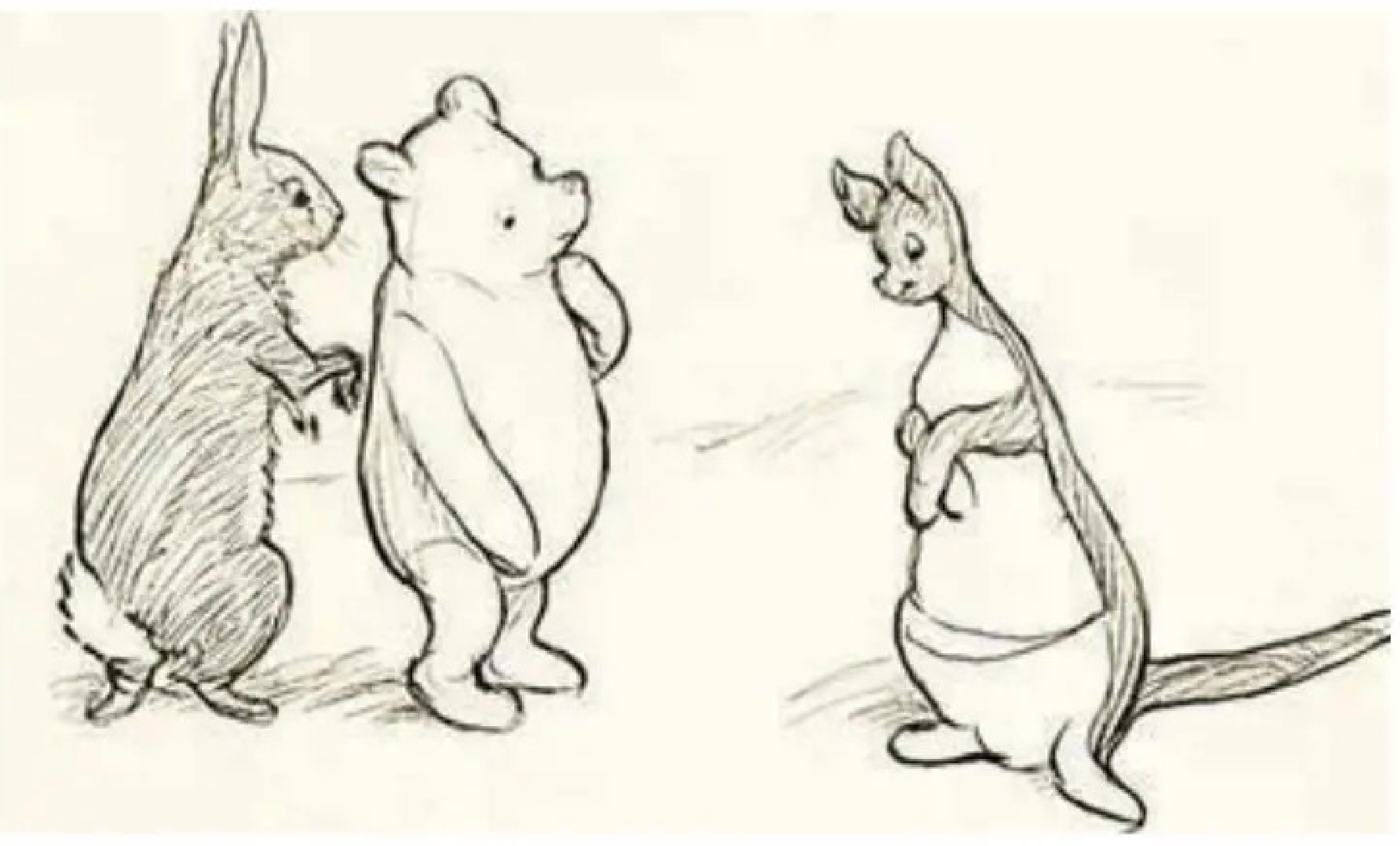
Was Christopher Robin a lucky boy to have a father who turned his imaginary world into a landmark of literature? Perhaps—but the child didn't think so. The books brought school bullies out of the woodwork and, after his teens, Christopher Robin Milne never spoke to his father again. He certainly wanted nothing to do with his old stuffed animals.

That's how Pooh and his friends wound up sitting in the New York offices of E. P. Dutton. There they remained until 1987, when the publisher sent them (except for Roo, who'd gone missing) to live at the New York Public Library. Far from becoming a dated character, Pooh and his friends had only grown more popular. That's thanks to Walt Disney who, introduced to Milne's books by his daughters Diane and Sharon, licensed the rights to make cartoons of the characters in 1961.

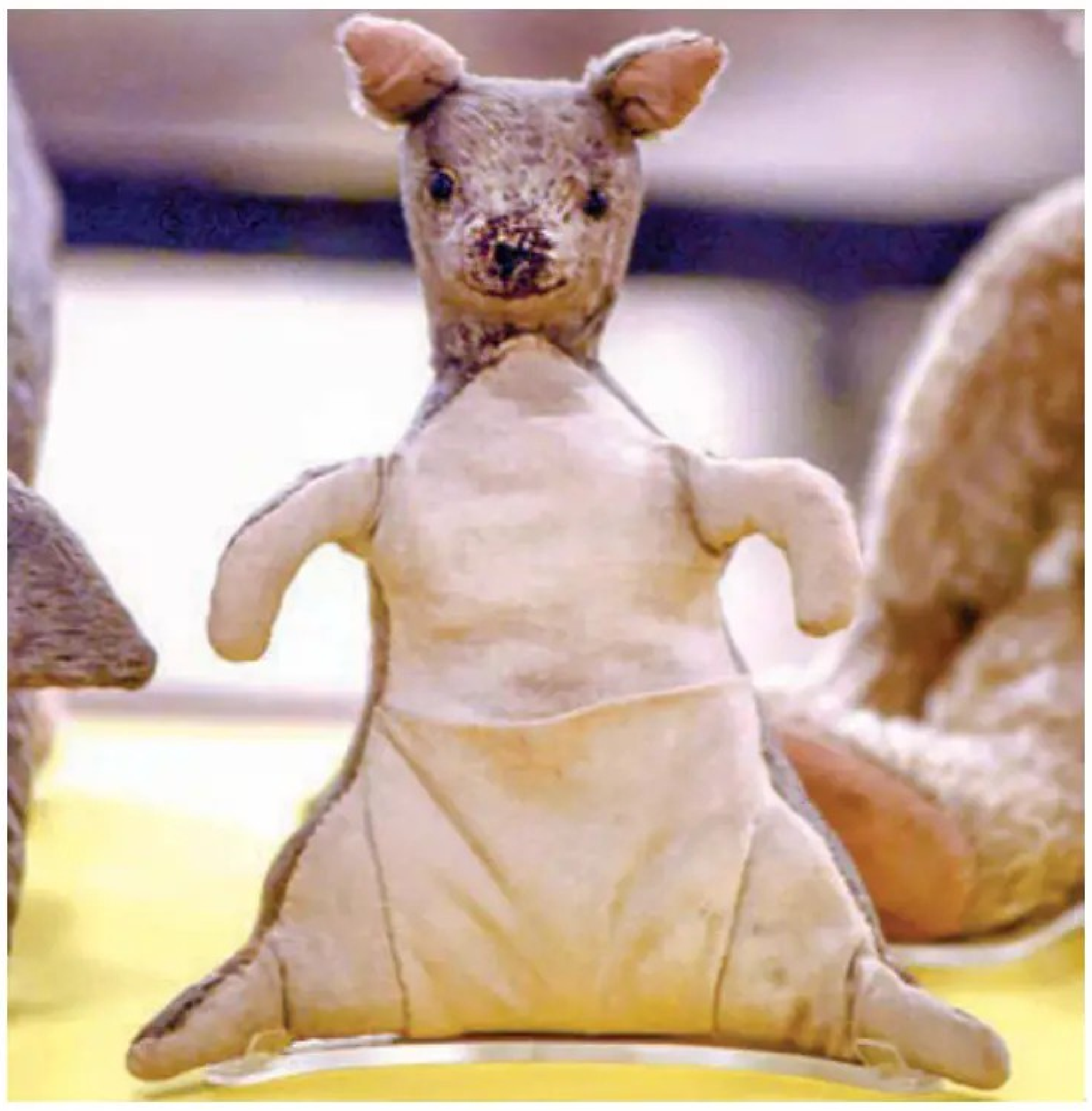


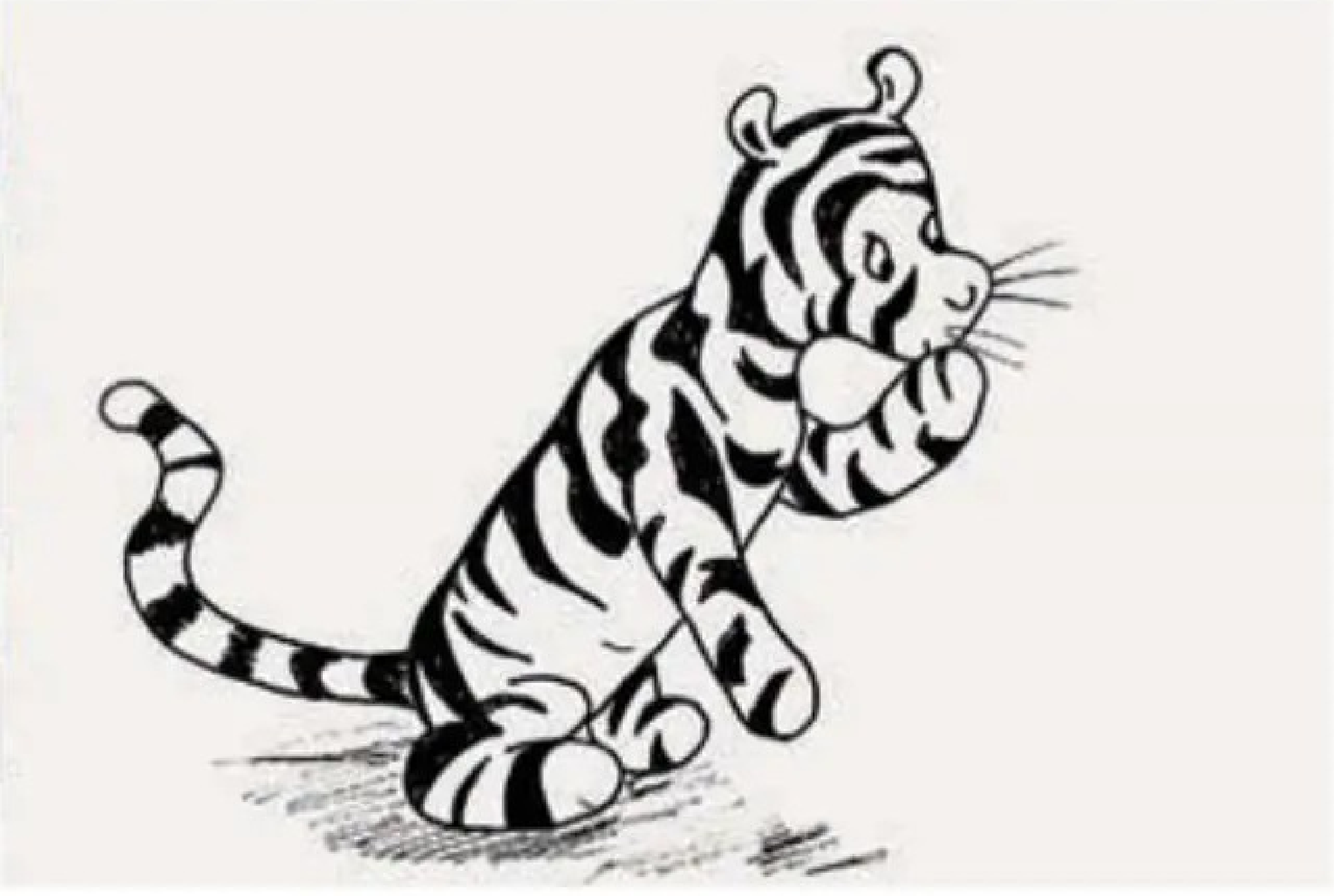
THINK PIG! At four-and-a-half inches high, Piglet is the smallest of the Pooh stuffies. The little oinker was suited with buttons on his chest, although book illustrator E. H. Shepard chose to depict him wearing a jumper that was originally colored green.



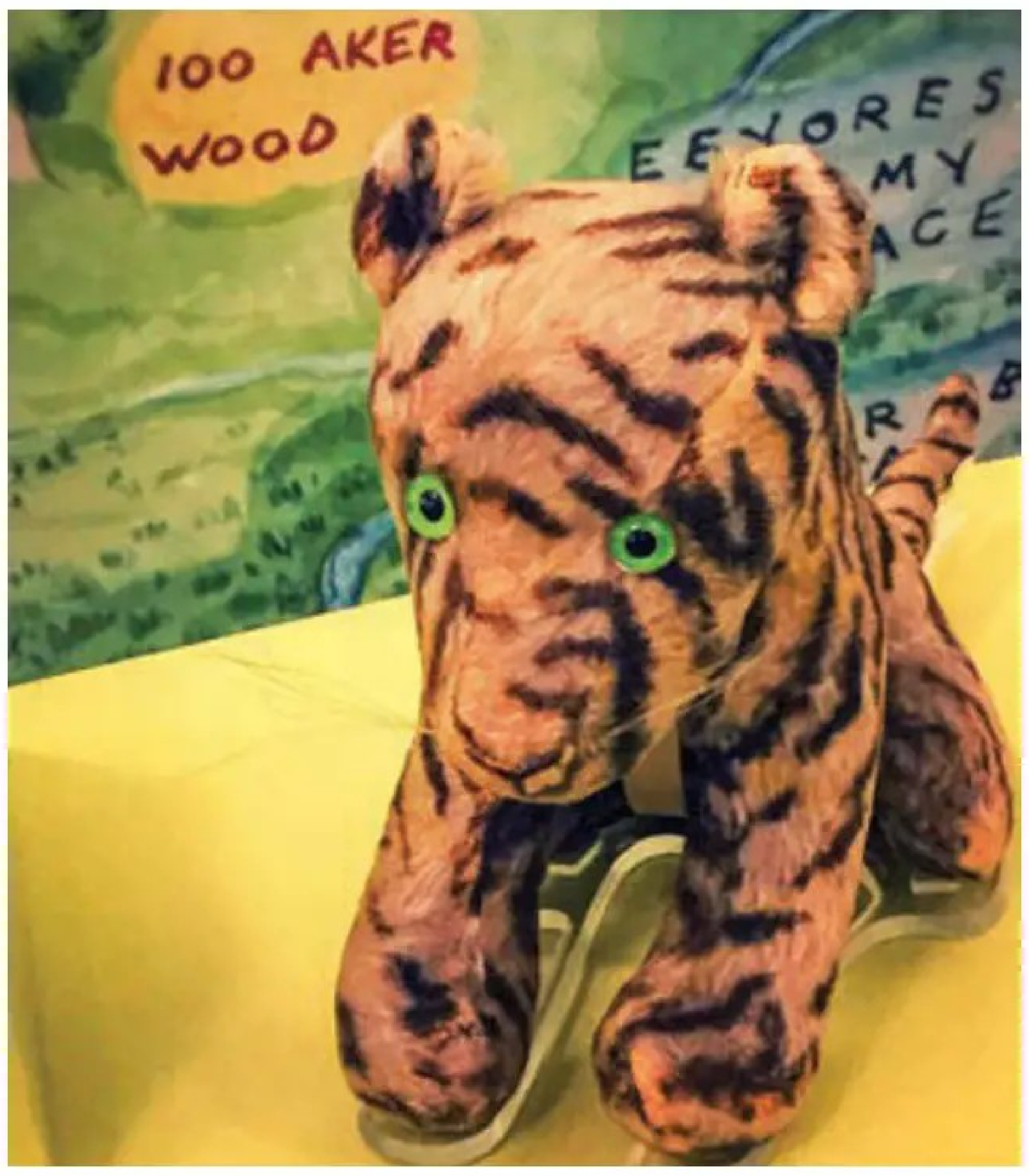


ROO FOR YOU: Milne gifted Kanga to Christopher Robin at the same time he gave the boy Tigger. The toy kangaroo came with a small joey (named Roo) in its pouch, but that baby was lost in an apple orchard during the 1930s.

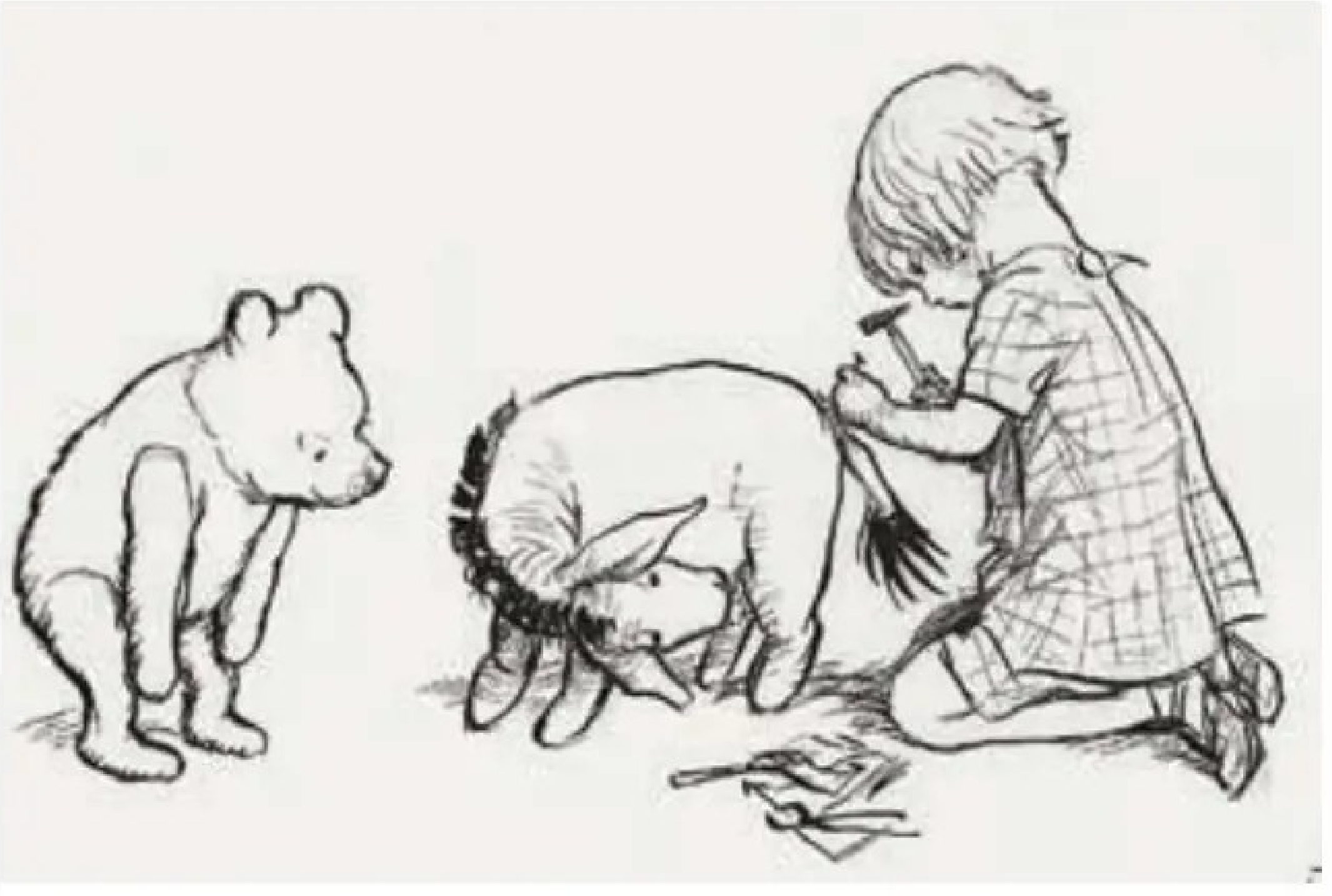




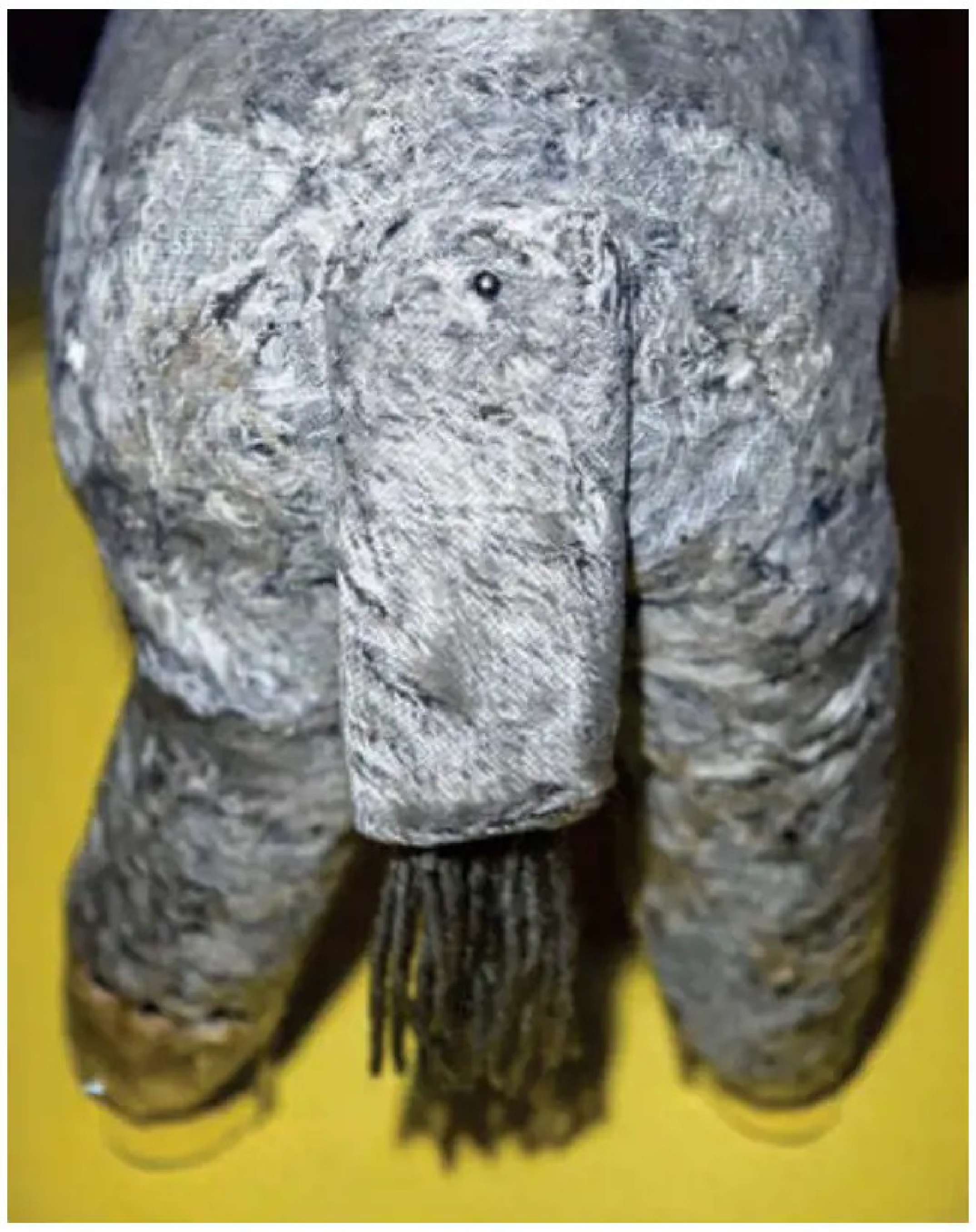
POUNCE AND BOUNCE: E. H. Shepard drawings of Tigger are faithful to the toy. He kept the cat's back legs short so that he maintains a crouching position even when in mid-air, reflecting the character's "bounciness."



Pooh, Piglet, and Kanga stuffies © Everett Collection Inc. Tigger © Patti McConville.



TAIL SPIN: Pooh fans will recall Eeyore's detachable tail as a prominent *Pooh* plot point. Those who stroll to the back of the display case at the New York Public Library will see that the original donkey stuffie does indeed sport a tacked-on tail.



The library was a logical custodian for the toys but was slow to recognize the scope of their fame. For years, the furry gang sat behind bulletproof glass in the children's room of a branch on 53rd Street. Few adults noticed them until 1998, when British MP Gwyneth Dunwoody, outraged by the creatures' forlorn state, called for the repatriation of Pooh and his friends to England.

Whereupon ensued a custody battle that would involve New York City's mayor, Congress, and eventually President Clinton and Prime Minister Tony Blair, who was visiting the US at the time. After some hushed diplomacy, Blair announced: "We admire the President and the United States and we believe that they will look after and care for these animals sufficient for them to rest here, with the British people happy that they are well looked after."

T IS FOR TOMORROW

And they have been. In 2016, the library treated Winnie, Eeyore, Tigger, and Kanga to an elaborate restoration. ("The plush on Pooh's bottom was gently steamed and fluffed using, among other things, a microspatula," officials explained.) Today, the toys enjoy pride of place in the Polonsky Exhibition on the main floor of the main branch, steps away from 42nd Street (the Lincoln Highway, we mean). Since 2021, 3.4 million people have come to see Pooh—1.3 million in the last twelve months alone.

The bear's cuteness cannot account for that level of celebrity, so what can? Well, Disney, of course, and the never-ending stream of licensed merchandise it cranks out. And because Milne's original book entered the public domain in 2022, there are now many interpretations of the bear's story.

"Pooh is always a top ten licensed character for kids—think about it as a property that has an entire new audience every three to five years," says pop culture authority James Zahn, who edits the industry publication *The Toy Book*. Pooh Bear might be just shy of a century old, Zahn said, but he and his friends still read as uncannily modern.

"Even if another creator is putting their own spin on it, it still has the core elements of the bear who is a friend," Zahn continues. "There's a lot of emotion involved in the interactions between those characters, things that are relevant today: inclusivity, different abilities, different mental states. At the end of the day, it's all about still being good to one another."

And all of it started with a birthday present from Harrods. Pooh still wears an inviting smile and thoughtfully lidded eyes—all but begging for a hug through that heavy pane of glass. He seems almost alive. And with so many visitors pleased to lay eyes on Pooh, he's as close to alive as a stuffed bear can be.

"I love the fact that the original still exists and is on display," says creative consultant Tyler Ham, who shared an Academy Award for his work on 2006's *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*.

"When I was a kid, I always 'knew' that my stuffed animals had real feelings—that I loved them, and they loved me back, or missed me when I was gone, or appreciated it when I moved them around or occasionally changed an outfit," Ham says. "If that is the case, I can only imagine what these stuffed animals must feel, knowing that generations of people—great grandparents to newborns—still love them."

ROBERT KLARA is a New York-based author and a Senior Editor at AMERICAN ROAD.

TRAP FOR
HEFFALU

Eeyore's tail © Everett Collection. Closing photo © Mark Passmore.

PINE
TREES
OWLS
HOUSE
100 AK
WOOD

IT'S THE WEBSITE BIKERS HIT, BEFORE THEY HIT THE ROAD.

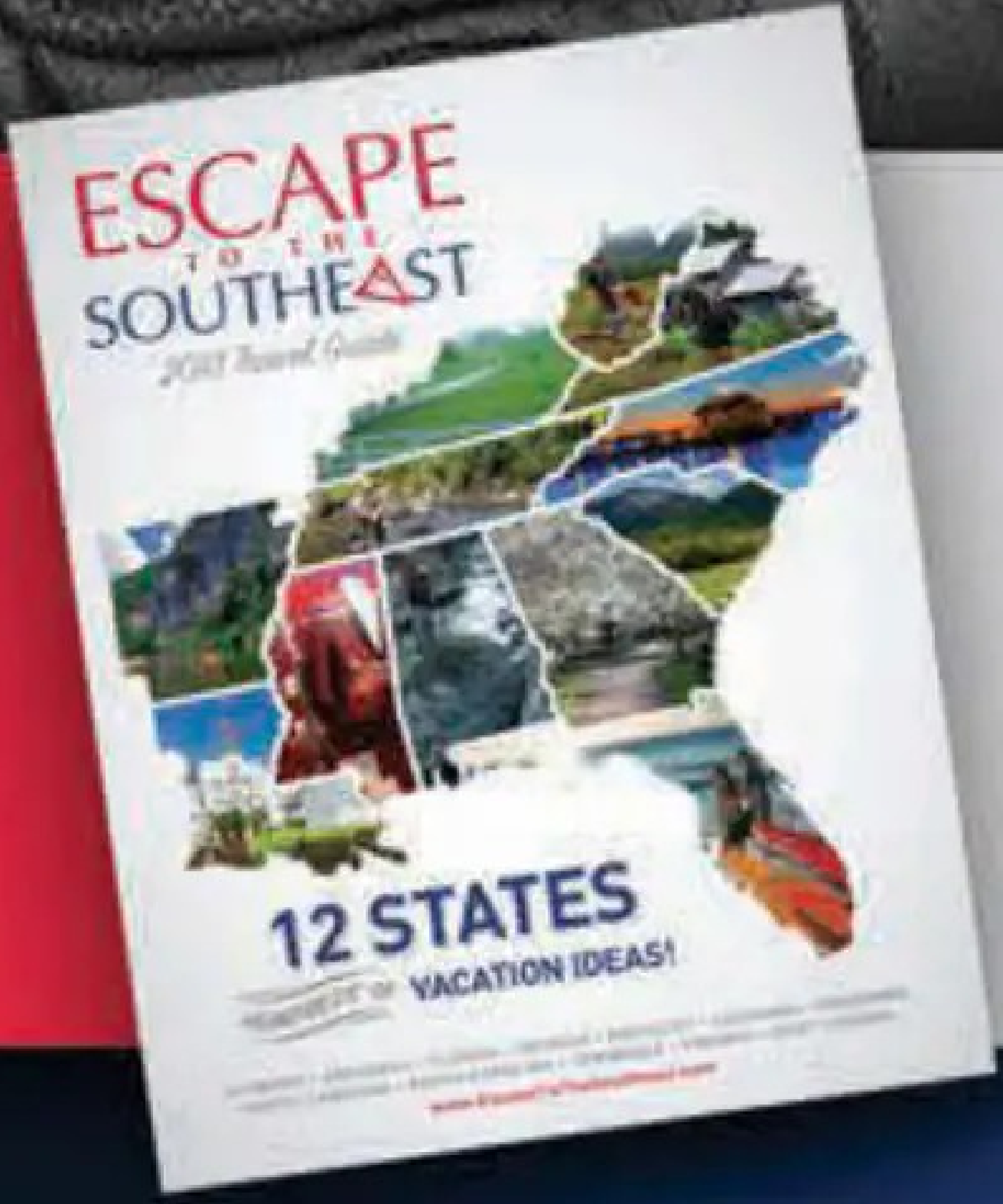
Make the most of your travels to the Southeast. EscapeToTheSoutheast.com has all the information you'll need: destinations, attractions, accommodations, events and more!

- **FREE Travel Brochures**
- **Events**
- **Contests**
- **And More!**

LOUISIANA
NORTH CAROLINA
WEST VIRGINIA
GEORGIA
TENNESSEE
Alabama
Arkansas
FLORIDA
Kentucky
MISSISSIPPI
VIRGINIA
South Carolina

ESCAPE TO THE SOUTHEAST

FREE


ESCAPE TO THE SOUTHEAST
12 STATES
VACATION IDEAS!

108 PAGE TRAVEL GUIDE

Request your FREE copy of the Escape to the Southeast Travel Guide by scanning this QR code or visiting EscapeToTheSoutheast.com.

Visit Today! www.EscapeToTheSoutheast.com

IN MY LOUISIANA,

EVERY DISH TELLS A STORY.

LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.
ExploreLouisiana.com

Shreveport
I-20
Monroe
I-49
Alexandria
LOUISIANA'S LEGEND COUNTRY
Vernon Parish
Baton Rouge
I-12
Lake Charles
I-10
Lafayette
I-10
New Orleans

FOLLOW YOUR PATH TO VERNON PARISH & DISCOVER TRUE ADVENTURE

In Louisiana's Legend Country follow the trail of outlaws, bandits, heroes and soldiers who once traversed these lands. **Visit Louisiana's Legend Country and make our storied past a tale you love to tell.**

LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.
ExploreLouisiana.com

LOUISIANA'S LEGEND COUNTRY
Vernon Parish

Vernon Parish Tourism Commission
201 South 3rd Street, Leesville, LA 71446 • 337.238.0783
LegendCountry.com

Jingle Jeepin'

Parade & Market

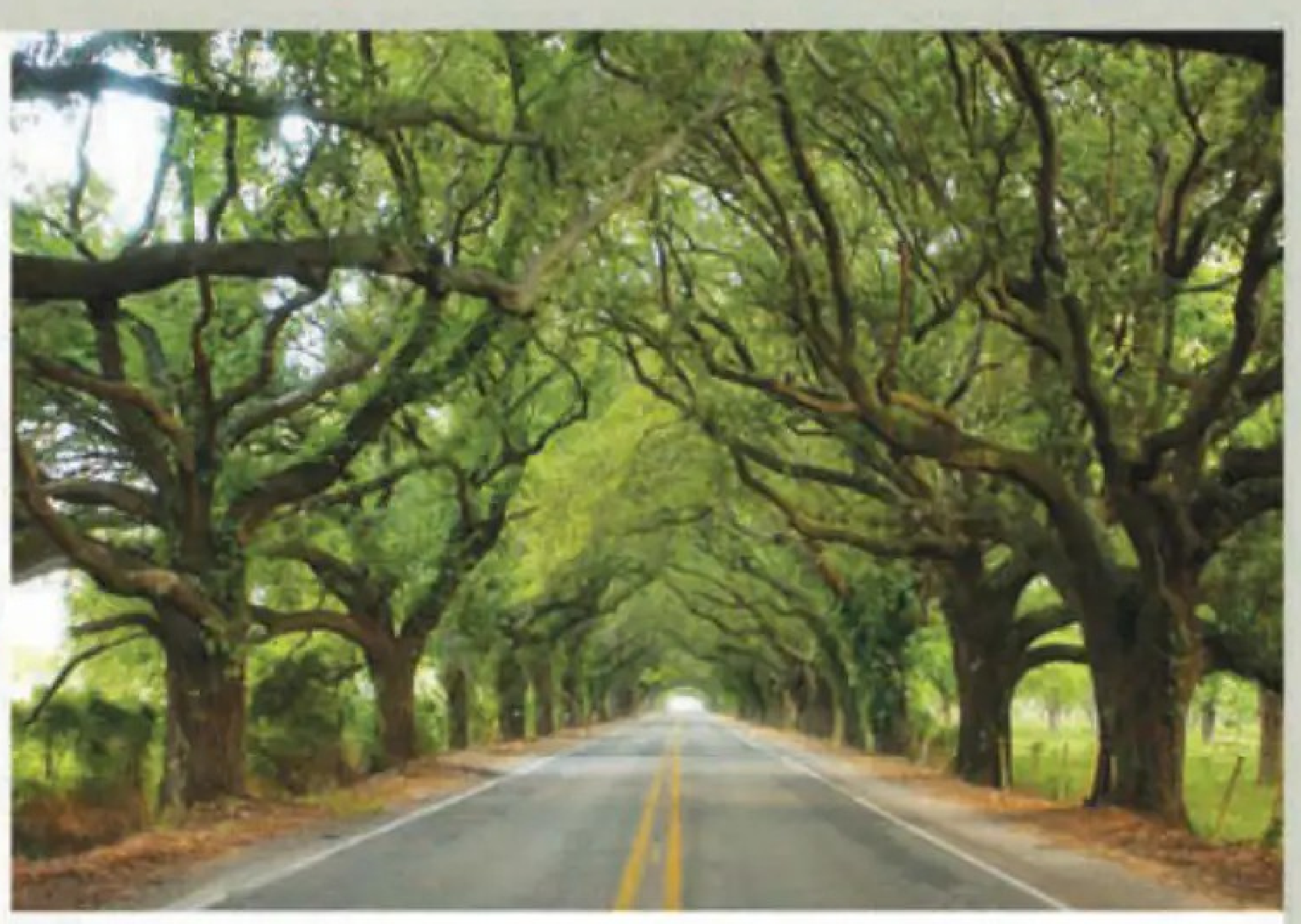
Saturday December 6, 2025 Noon - 8:00PM
Parade rolls out at 5:30PM • Craft Market Opens at Noon
Santa Photo's ,Food Vendors & Live Music

West Baton Rouge

LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.
ExploreLouisiana.com

Visit westbatonrouge.net
for more info
or call 800-654-9701

IN MY LOUISIANA,
TRADITION IS THE SECRET INGREDIENT.
YEAR OF FOOD 2025
LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.
ExploreLouisiana.com



Catch OUR Culture

IN HISTORIC ST. BERNARD PARISH

Celebrate our rich history while you explore Spanish St. Bernard at Los Isleños Museum Complex and historic village during our Isleños Festival. Connect with our coastal communities in Eastern St. Bernard, and experience world class fishing. For a natural encounter, the St. Bernard State Park is an ideal spot for camping and hiking located along the Mississippi River. Take a road trip down the San Bernardo Scenic By-way, and enjoy local restaurants, shopping and culture. ***Live like a local and Stay in St. Bernard Parish.***

St. Bernard
TOURIST COMMISSION
NEW ORLEANS' MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBOR

Only 5 miles from the Historic French Quarter | VISITSTBERNARD.COM | (504) 278.4242

LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.
ExploreLouisiana.com

In Louisiana, every bite tells a story and every meal brings a smile. Ranked as one of the nation's happiest states, we believe our incredible cuisine plays a big part. From savoring a beignet to diving into a bowl of gumbo, Louisiana's iconic dishes and culinary experiences will leave you craving more. Explore Louisiana's Food Culture — the flavors, culture and traditions that make Louisiana a food lover's paradise.

Taste LOUISIANA

ExploreLouisiana.com/Culinary

LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.
ExploreLouisiana.com
YEAR OF FOOD 2025

EXPLORE
Iberville
BAYOUS TO BYWAYS

LEARN MORE AT
VISITIBERVILLE.COM

Visitors Center (I-10 at Grosse Tete)
1 (877) 310-8874 | 1 (225) 687-5198

LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.
ExploreLouisiana.com

YOU AIN'T A FOODIE UNTIL YOU'VE BEEN TO THE BAYOU.

YOU gotta TRY THIS!

LOUISIANA'S
CAJUN BAYOU
LAFOURCHE PARISH

LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.
ExploreLouisiana.com

DISCOVER OUR CULINARY CULTURE AT
LACAJUNBAYOU.COM

Photo © Aimin Tang

• BY JILLIAN GURNEY

Wynken, Blynken & Nod

ON US 6

THE CHILDREN'S POEM THREE TIMES SET IN STONE

"Wynken, Blynken, and Nod one night
Sailed off in a wooden shoe,—
Sailed on a river of crystal light
Into a sea of dew…."

FIELD OF DREAMS: [Above] Widely loved Poet of Childhood Eugene Field published his first poem, "Christmas Treasures," in 1879. He gained his initial fame in 1888 with the publication of "Little Boy Blue"—a poem about a toy dog and tin soldier left behind by a child who has died.

Most of us have heard the time-honored bedtime poem "Wynken, Blynken and Nod." Its dreamy verses tell of three children who fly off into the night sky riding inside a traditional (albeit enormous) Dutch *klomp*. The trio speak with the moon, sail along a river of crystal light, and cast "nets of silver and gold" to catch glowing "herring-fish" that twinkle like little stars. For more than a century, the poem has been a staple of kindergartens and nurseries. It has inspired popular songs, stage plays, and parodies. Yet relatively few of its readers know that the poem had sequels of sorts—that after the three tykes finished their midnight expedition to the heavens, Wynken, Blynken, and Nod rode their huge wooden shoe not once, not twice, but thrice down US Highway 6.

The famous poem was written by Eugene Field—a St. Louisan by birth, newspaper columnist by profession, and poet of childhood by calling. Field was a father of eight, so he well understood a tot's tiny perspective. His written works for little ones included "The Duel"—a description of a kerfuffle between a gingham dog and a calico cat that ends only after the two material pets have chewed each other to shreds—and "The Rock-a-By Lady From Hushaby Street," a nursery rhyme about a Morphean enchantress draped head to toe with poppies, who provides sleeping children with flowers that become their dreams. Many of Field's poems—"The Dinkey-Bird," "The Sugar Plum Tree," and "Little Button Eyes" among them—double as lullabies. They take as their subjects the painting of sleepscapes such as the cliffs of Wonder-Wander and the shores of the Lollipop Sea. Of these, none have won a more prominent place in the American consciousness than "Wynken, Blynken, and Nod."

MAX FACTOR: [Opposite] Maxfield Parrish's 1904 illustration of Wynken, Blynken, and Nod reveals why he is celebrated for his sublime depictions of celestial skies. Parrish reportedly began each of his paintings by covering his canvas with the color ultramarine, cobalt, or Monastral blue.

The old moon laughed and sang a song,
As they rocked in the wooden shoe;
And the wind that sped them all night long
Ruffled the waves of dew….

"Wynken, Blynken, and Nod" was first published in 1889. It appeared on March 9 of that year in the *Chicago Daily News* under its original title "Dutch Lullaby." Within weeks, its lasting success was ensured. Newspapers from the *Morning News of Wilmington* to the *Atlanta Constitution* and the *Kansas City Star* to the *San Francisco Chronicle* published the poem on their front pages. Parents everywhere asked editors to reprint the poem because their toddlers responded so favorably to its reading. "Every mother in the land might be grateful to Col. Eugene Field, the poet of Chicago, for giving them so many new lullabies full of tenderness," the *Pittsburgh Dispatch* opined. Other newspapers agreed and reprinted that commendation in tandem with more reprints of the poem.

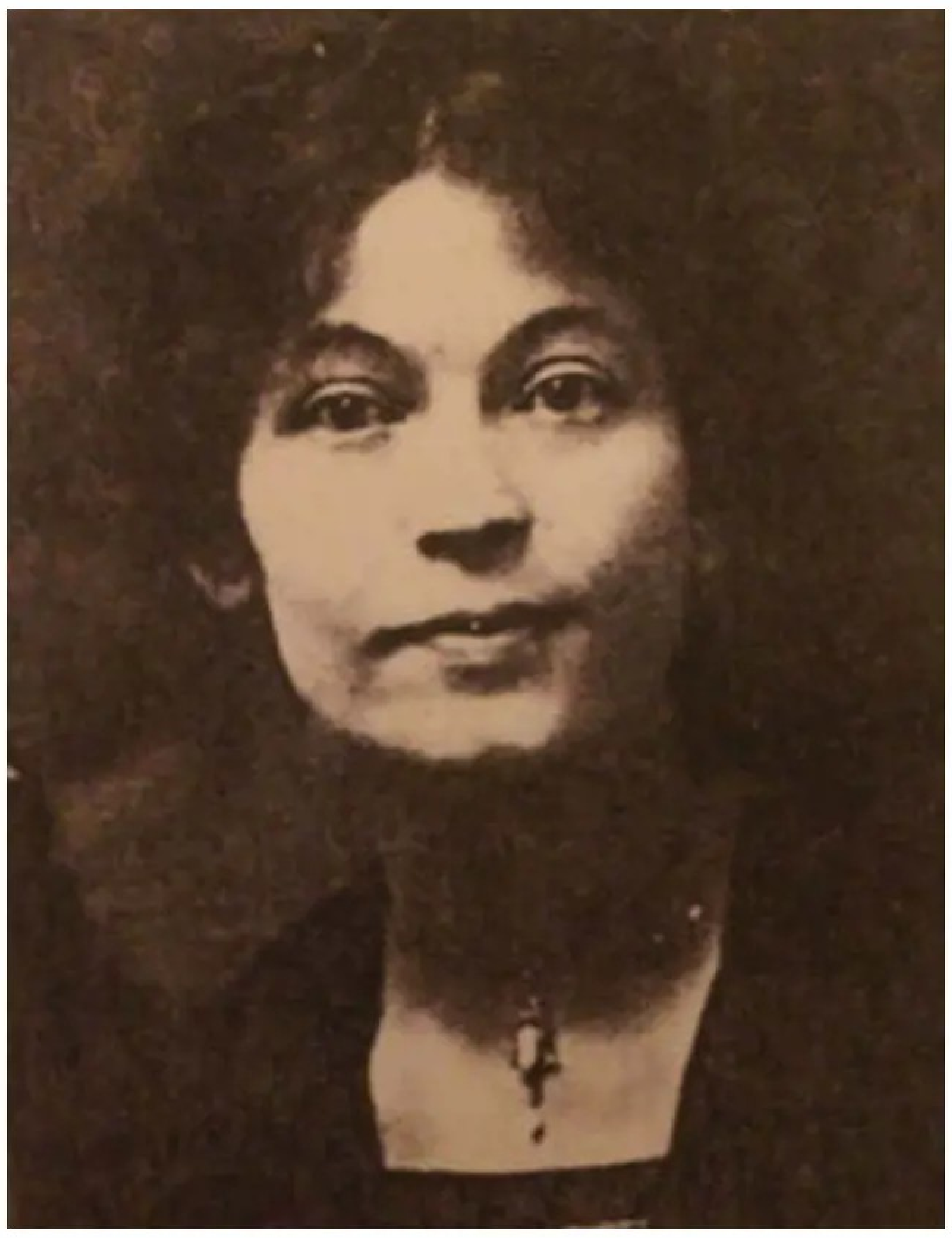
Not a year after "Dutch Lullaby" debuted, American pianist Ethelbert Woodbridge Nevin set its words to music. Glee clubs across the country made his composition a staple of their programs. Folklorist Andrew Lang, hard at work on his own fairy tale book series at the turn of the century, called the poem "one of the best, if not the very best, child poem in the English language." Golden Age illustrator Maxfield Parrish completed an idealized painting of its dream scene that appeared in the collection *Poems of Childhood* in 1904. Boston's Tremont Theatre adapted the poem into a stage play starring "child comedian" Tommy Coburn in the role of Nod. In 1914, Georgene Faulkner—"The Story Lady" of the *Chicago Tribune*—retold the poem's tale in her widely-read column. And around the same time, a young student at the Art Institute of Chicago found herself so inspired by Field's imagery of a sailing boat-size shoe that she began carefully molding a prodigious Dutch clog out of clay.

That artist's name was Mabel Landrum Torrey. She hailed from Sterling, Colorado, where she was born in 1886 as the daughter of a local judge. She grew up to become a schoolteacher, and by age 26, had saved enough money working in the classroom to send herself east to study sculpture. She attended the Art Institute of Chicago, where her headmaster was Charles J. Mulligan, a classicist identified with the Chicago Beautiful movement who confessed to a fondness for folk art. Mulligan taught Torrey how to shape traditional forms. She brought to her work a natural talent for sculpting small bodies and her fascination with Field's watershed poem. The result was a masterwork inspired by and named for that poem—*Wynken, Blynken, and Nod*.

Torrey's translation of the poem added personality to its narrative. In her sculpture, the children appear to be brother and sisters: Wynken, the boy, is about 8 years of age. He sits on the bow of the big shoe-turned-boat, eyes fallen closed, hands limply grasping the oars that trail through the curling waves kissing the clog's sides. Blynken, the girl, looks to be about 10. She kneels behind Wynken, gazing fixedly forward and up toward the horizon. Her fingers gently cradle Wynken's chin so that his head will not drop snoozing to his chest; she's encouraging him to stay awake. Nod, the baby, sleeps in the stern, snuggled against Blynken, having already lost her struggle against the Sandman and the stars.

MABEL LANDRUM TORREY

> **"Torrey went to work on an impassive block of pink Tennessee marble. The group of three weighed twenty-nine tons."**



TRUE PIONEER: [Above] Mabel Landrum Torrey had a rare gift for sculpting juvenile forms, yet she was forever humble about that art. "Among the group of sculptors with whom I have been associated for years," she wrote in March 1934, "I can boast of only one distinction: I was born in a sod house."

Torrey's plaster sculpture was exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago. Critics awarded it high praise. After the exhibition, she gifted the sculpture to Robert W. Speer, mayor of Denver, who remembered that Eugene Field had briefly worked as a managing editor for the *Denver Tribune*. Speer was so delighted with the piece, that he commissioned Torrey to create a larger stone version of it—a centerpiece for a fountain that would stand as a Denver landmark.

The project was funded in 1919 by attorney Frank Woodward with ten $1,000 Liberty Bonds. Torrey went to work on an impassive block of pink Tennessee marble. In October, she shipped the completed carving to the Mile High City. The group of three weighed twenty-nine tons and stood five feet, eight inches tall.

The sculpture was installed in a shallow fountain in Washington Park—one of Denver's oldest green spaces. At the time, the park was accessed by carriage paths and electric streetcars—US Highway 6 did not yet exist—but early motorists found their way to the storied artwork just the same.

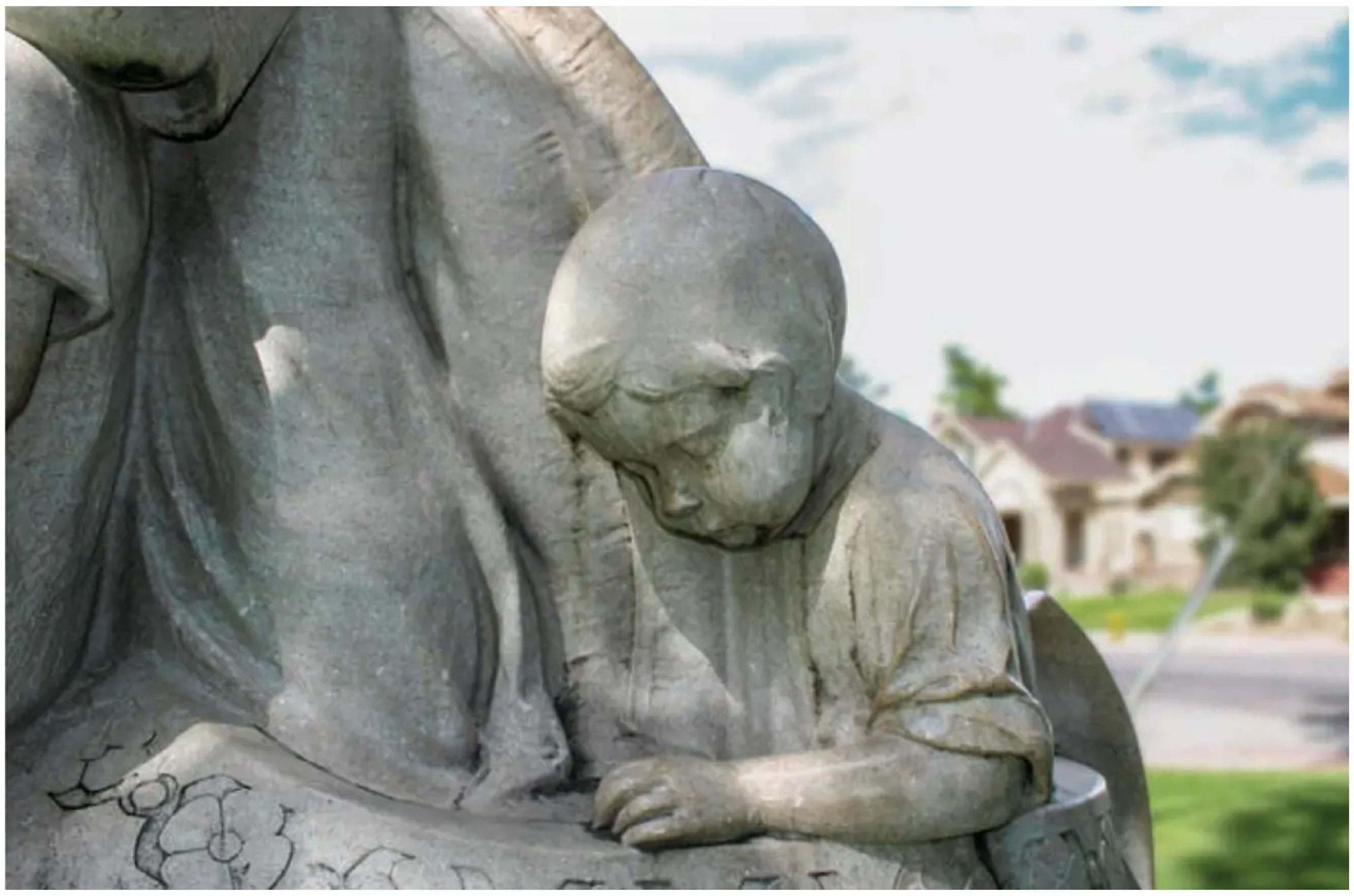
For three generations, the sculpture stood in its original location as the city grew. Time took its toll. By 1981, desperately in need of repair, it was plucked from its pond, restored, and permanently moored on dry land. It has since been located on the park's eastern edge at the intersection of Franklin Street and Exposition Avenue. It sits immediately to the north of the Eugene Field House—a circa-1875, four-room, gold-yellow clapboard home that was Field's residence from 1881 to 1883, during his tenure at the *Denver Tribune*.

INTERSTATE
25

The house was purchased by Denver philanthropist and socialite Margaret "Unsinkable Molly" Brown in 1927. She gifted it to the city and saw it moved from its original location at 315 West Colfax to Washington Park in 1930. It is said that Brown loved Field's poems so dearly that she often recited them in public. Of course, she never sailed anywhere in a wooden shoe, but she did escape the 1912 sinking of the R.M.S. *Titanic* in a clinker-built wooden rowboat.

The second sculpture of Wynken, Blynken, and Nod to be installed in a US 6 city was unveiled in the children's room of the Omaha Public Library on February 13, 1929. Commissioned by local teachers, who placed it in tribute to the late wife of a respected superintendent of schools, it is significantly smaller than its Denver counterpart and of slightly different design: In its composition, the Dutch *klomp* is lacking oars. Instead, it is the mesh net needed to capture the sparkling "herring-fish" that is clasped in Wynken's sleepy grasp and trailing into the water. The waves don't curl against the clog as insistently as they do in the Denver version, and the stern of the shoe is more shallow—fitting, perhaps, because this version of Torrey's sculpture has never served as the centerpiece of a fountain, much to the disappointment of at least one Nebraska educator: As late as 1935, Marion Reed, supervisor of art at Omaha Public Schools, told the *Omaha World-Herald* she could "never be content" with the sculpture until it, too, was made into a fountain. Now, ninety years later, it remains high and dry. Yet time has shown that no statue could be better suited to whetting kids' appetites for poetry.

"It is placed low so children can touch it," librarian Katherine Porter told the *Omaha World-Herald*. "It never ceases to intrigue them, and, of course, every touch burnishes it more highly and contributes to its beauty…. After seeing the statue, they often make their way to a librarian to have the story of Wynken, Blynken, and Nod told and take the book home to read and reread. The statue seems to make the characters in this poem of Eugene Field's live…."



Washington Park WB&N sculpture photos courtesy Denver Public Art.

DREAM BOAT: [Opposite] Within years of its installation, Denver's Wynken, Blynken, and Nod sculpture became a community icon. "There are always, during the day, groups of Denver children smiling at the artist's interpretation of the poem,'" newsman E. G. "Doc" Ivins noted in 1925. Today's kids seem most intrigued by Nod [right] who has now been asleep more than a century.

> **"By this time, a fanciful fountain inspired by a famous poem could encourage its own stories."**

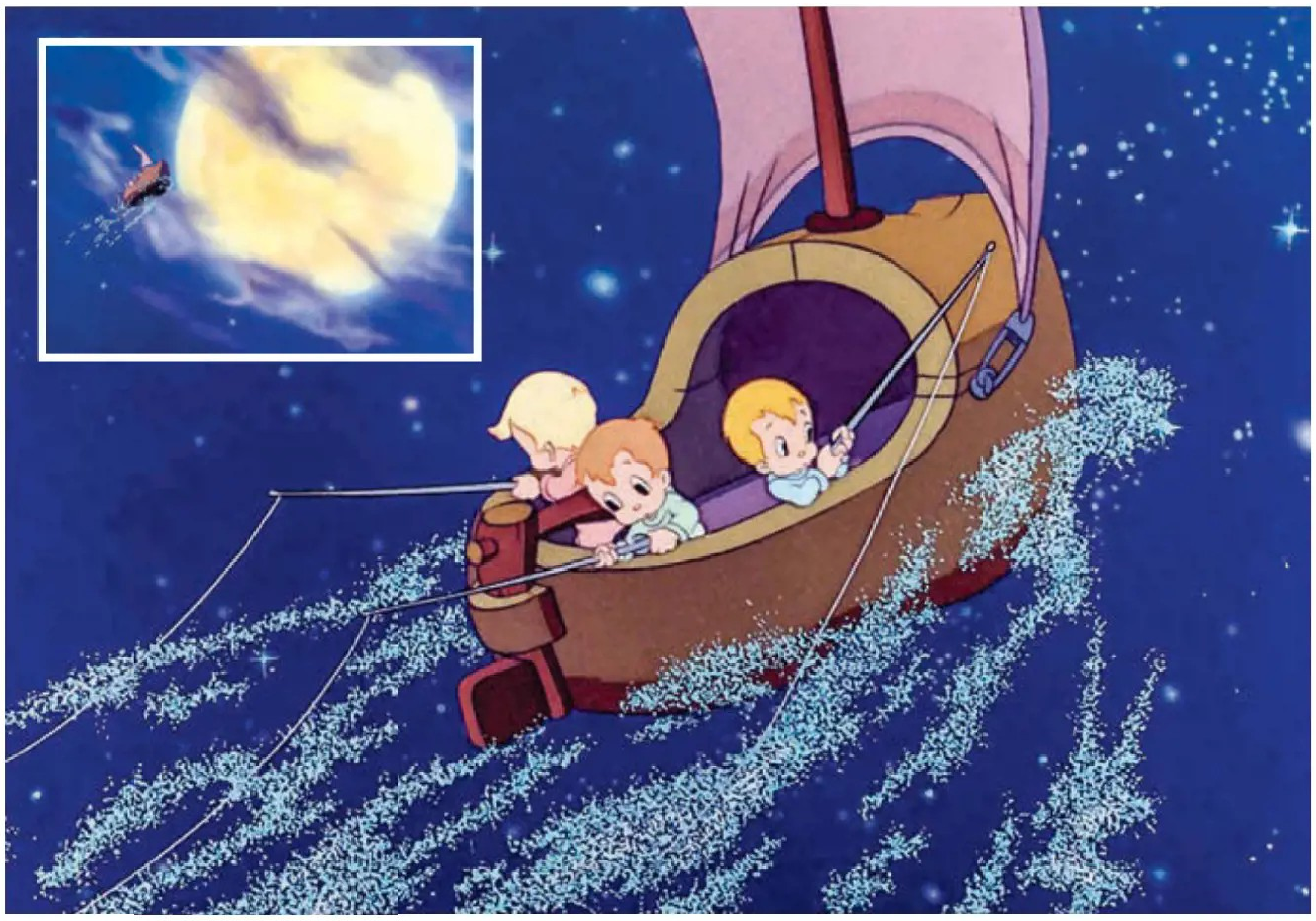
The unveiling of the Wynken, Blynken, and Nod sculpture inside the Omaha Public Library didn't mark the last happily-ever-after for Eugene Field's signature poem in a US Highway 6 town. Nearly ten years following that event—and nearly twenty years after the dedication of the stone fountain in Denver's Washington Park—the stars aligned a third time, and a mighty shoe was installed in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

The Wellsboro fountain was placed on the borough's village green through the efforts of Frederick "Fred" W. Bailey—state senator of Colorado, major stockholder in the Crippled Creek Gold Mine, and co-founder of the United States National Bank. Bailey was a Wellsboro native, as was his sweetheart, Elizabeth Cameron. The couple married in 1892 and moved to the Centennial State where they spent their lives climbing ever higher in society. Now and then, the powerhouse pair found a private moment to stroll around the Wynken, Blynken, and Nod fountain in Washington Park and recall the simple charms of their Pennsylvania childhoods.

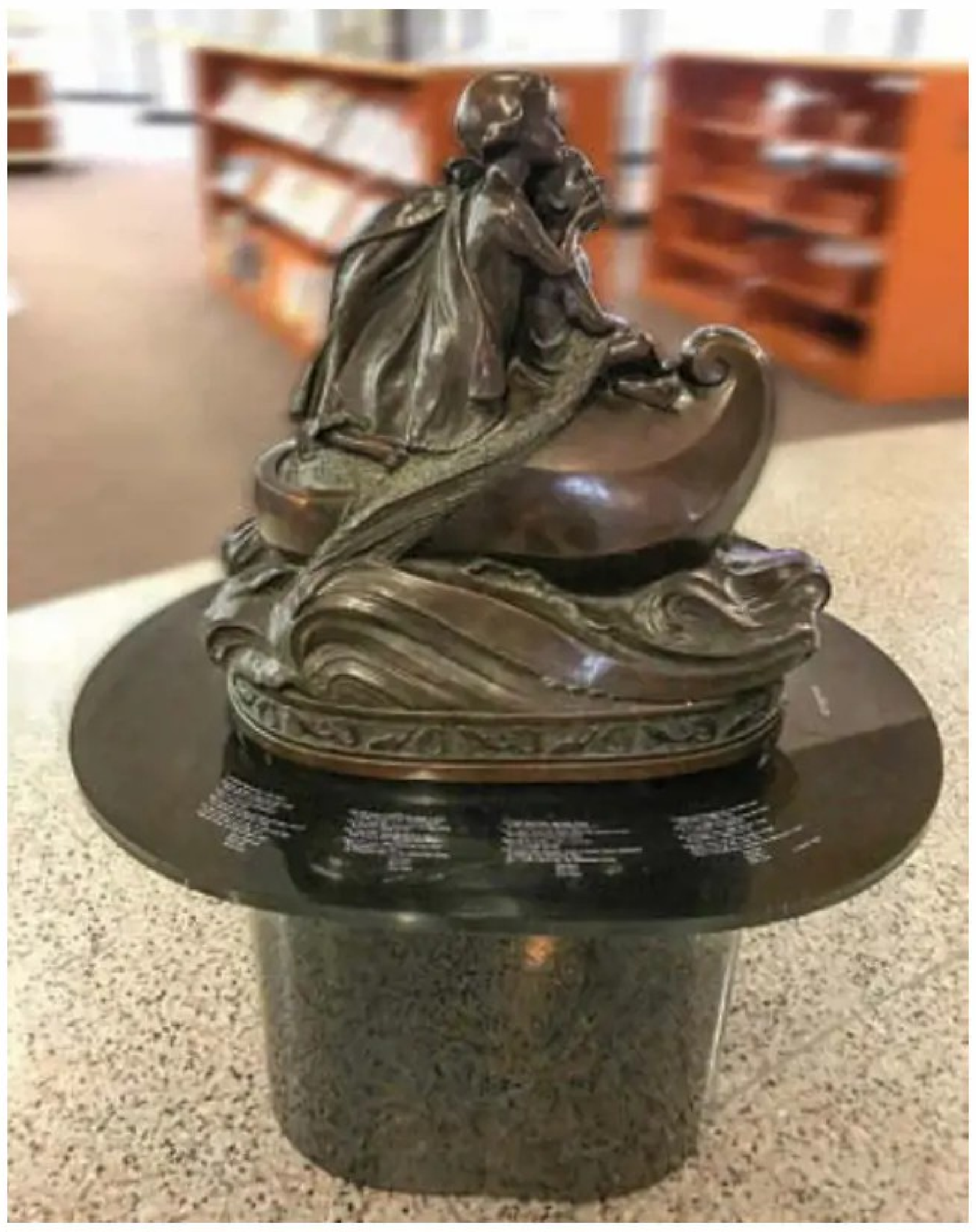
Reports say Elizabeth Bailey adored the Denver fountain. After she died in 1928, Fred decided that their shared hometown should have a close copy of it, paid for with his fortune, dedicated to her memory.

Mabel Landrum Torrey was again commissioned to create a statue from her Art Institute of Chicago model—this time, a bronze of a size to rival Denver's marble. As she readied the mold, public interest in the project soared with the May 27,1938, release of the Walt Disney cartoon *Wynken, Blynken & Nod*. The eight-minute musical was among the last films issued under the *Silly Symphony* banner, and like other shorts in that series, it experimented with bold and innovative animation techniques. *Wynken, Blynken & Nod* employed a multiplane camera to add depth to its galactic backdrops. It dazzled with glowing Technicolor in its scenes with the herring-fish and a streaming comet, When the cartoon played at Wellsboro's Arcadia Theatre, the local newspaper encouraged residents to attend this "story behind the characters to be soon seen in the new fountain." People did—and saw a small masterpiece.

The Wellsboro fountain was dedicated on September 23, 1938. Two thousand people attended the ceremony. Mabel Landrum Torrey appeared with her daughter, Elizabeth Jane, whom whispers insisted had served as the model for Wynken in the bronze shoe.



NEXT STOP, *FANTASIA*? [Below] Film critics today consider *Wynken, Blynken & Nod* less of a typical *Silly Symphony* and more of a step on Disney's march toward full-length animated movies. "[It] is as extravagant as any Disney feature," Leonard Maltin wrote in his 1973 book *The Disney Films*.



IF THE SHOE FITS: [Above] The Wynken, Blynken, and Nod sculpture owned by the Omaha Public Library is half the size of its counterpart in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania [opposite], but both are suited to their purposes: The Omaha sculpture delights tots; the Wellsboro fountain thrills tourists.

The claims were in error: Elizabeth Jane was born in 1920, well after Torrey had completed her original sculpture at the Art Institute of Chicago and a year after the first fountain was installed in Denver. Yet the talk persisted. By now, a fanciful fountain inspired by a famous children's poem could encourage its own stories.

The Wellsboro fountain operates today as it did eighty-seven years ago. On occasion, it has been the site of strange coincidences—such as the day thirty-eight cents were discovered atop the Nod figure just as community leaders were thinking to start a fund for the sculpture's restoration. More monies were collected, and the refurbishment was completed in 1989, but a deluge of a rainstorm broke before the rededication ceremony, forcing would-be attendees inside nearby St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Skies cleared a bit as the church carillon played Brahms' Lullaby, and the fountain's new underwater lights fired up for the first time. The figures looked otherworldly in that milky glow, almost as if they were lit from a moon below. And that touched a chord in the memories of anyone who was ever a little kid who went to bed.

JILLIAN GURNEY is a Senior Editor at AMERICAN ROAD.

Wellsboro WB&N fountain © Ruhrfisch.

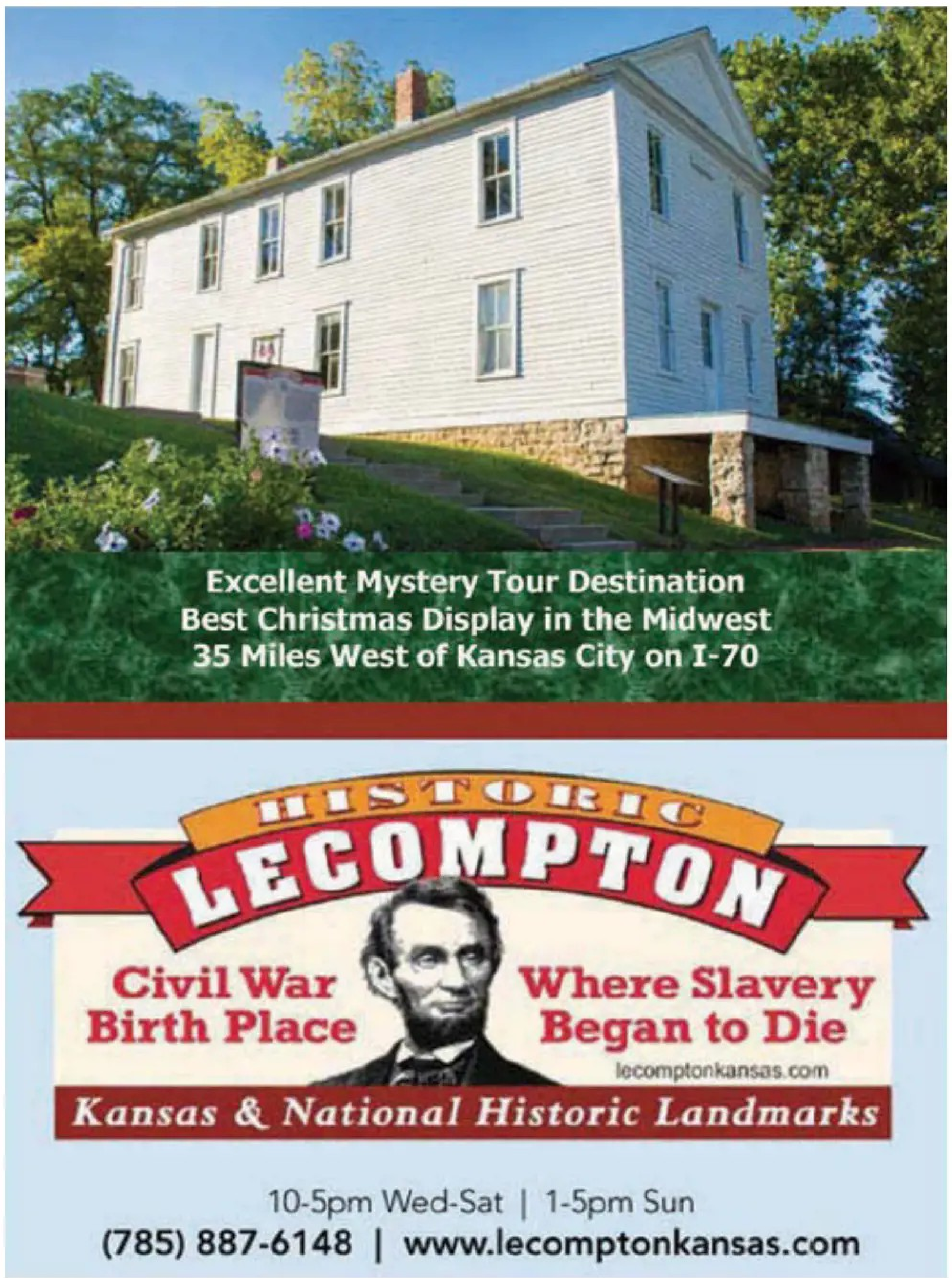
WILD TRAVELS

Celebrating America's most colorful, offbeat and quirky events.

Broadcast on PBS
Streaming on
pbs.org/show/wild-travels

FIFI

Kinetic Sculpture Race
Baltimore



Excellent Mystery Tour Destination
Best Christmas Display in the Midwest
35 Miles West of Kansas City on I-70

HISTORIC LECOMPTON

Civil War Birth Place

Where Slavery Began to Die

lecomptonkansas.com

Kansas & National Historic Landmarks

10-5pm Wed-Sat | 1-5pm Sun
(785) 887-6148 | www.lecomptonkansas.com

Visit
KEARNEY

Enjoy cultural attractions, colorful murals, amazing parks, unique shopping, a wide variety of restaurants & loads of entertainment all year round!

LINCOLN
L
HIGHWAY

AMERICA'S BYWAYS®

Visit KEARNEY NEBRASKA

PLAN YOUR TRIP:

VisitKearney.org

308-237-3178

WILD WEST
★COUNTRY★
SOUTHWEST KANSAS

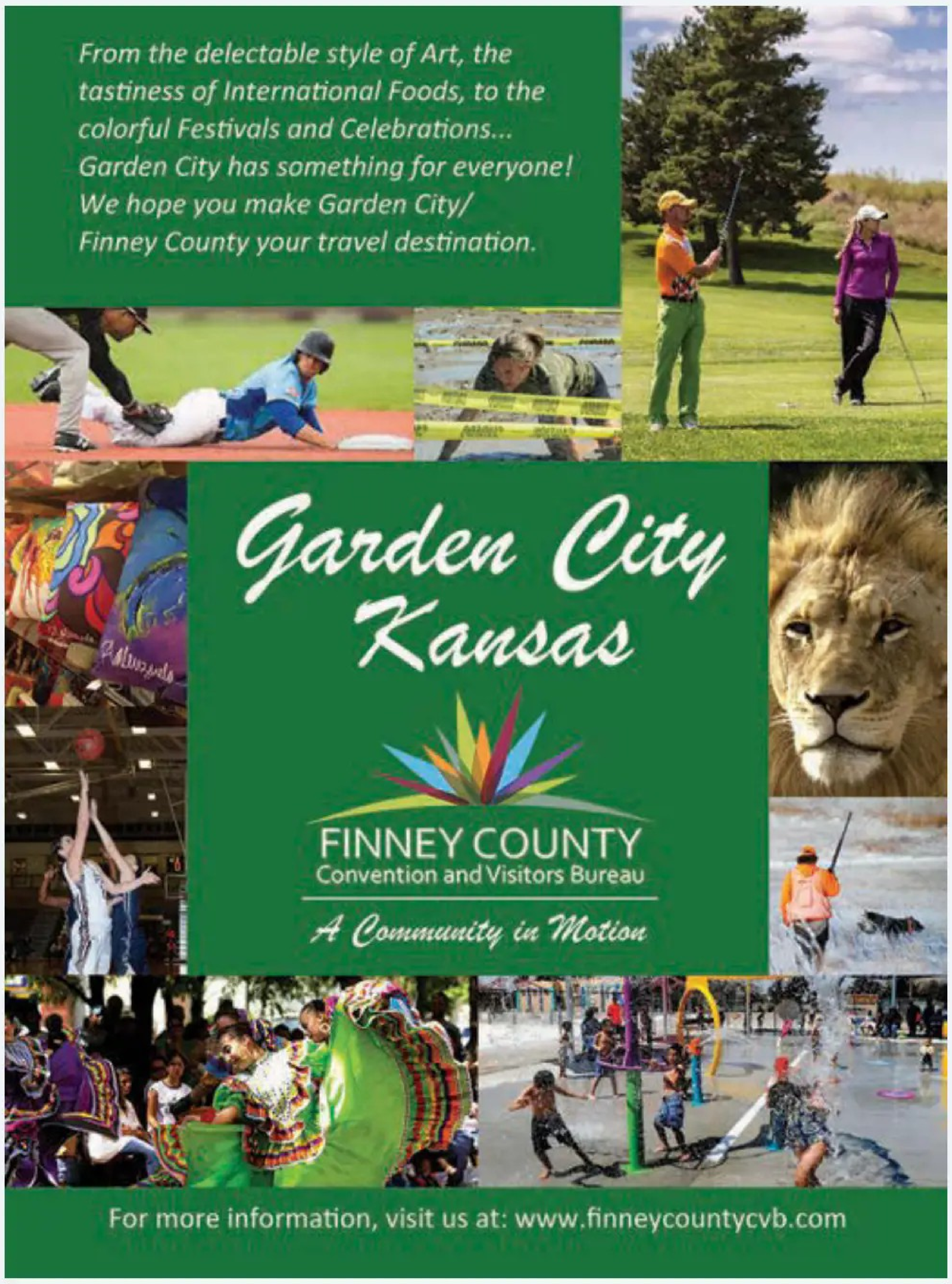
Discover the Hidden Gems of Southwest Kansas.

Explore Wild West Country, a hidden Midwest treasure in Southwest Kansas. Our 22 counties boast wide-open spaces, breathtaking sunrises, and diverse landscapes. Experience the charm of our small towns, connect with the pioneer spirit on the prairie, or explore world-class museums, and you'll soon count Southwest Kansas among your favorite destinations.

Let your treasure hunt begin!

wildwestcountry.com @wildwestcountry

FOR THE LEGENDARY
SOUTHWEST
KANSAS

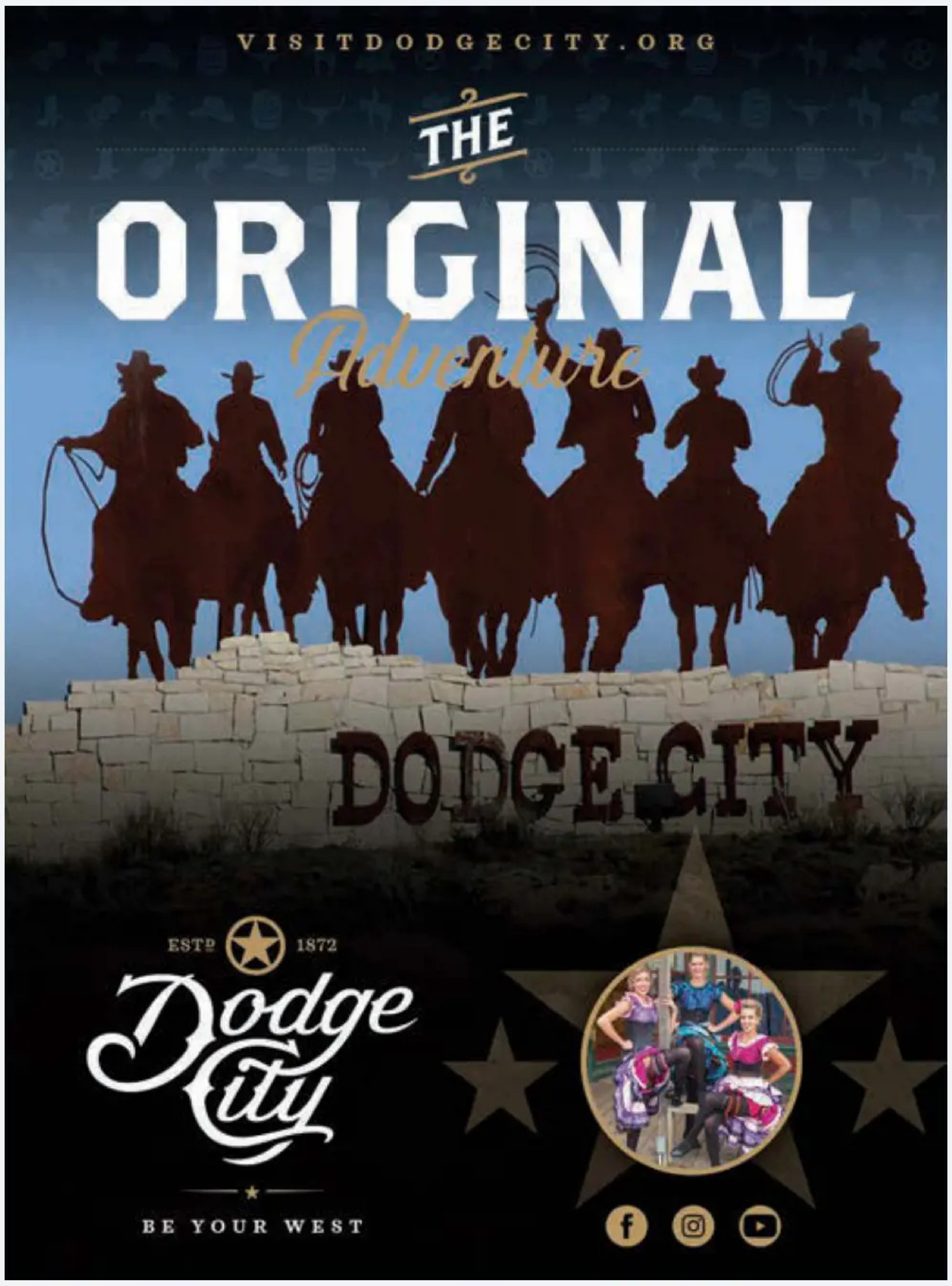


From the delectable style of Art, the tastiness of International Foods, to the colorful Festivals and Celebrations... Garden City has something for everyone! We hope you make Garden City/ Finney County your travel destination.

Garden City Kansas

FINNEY COUNTY
Convention and Visitors Bureau
A Community in Motion

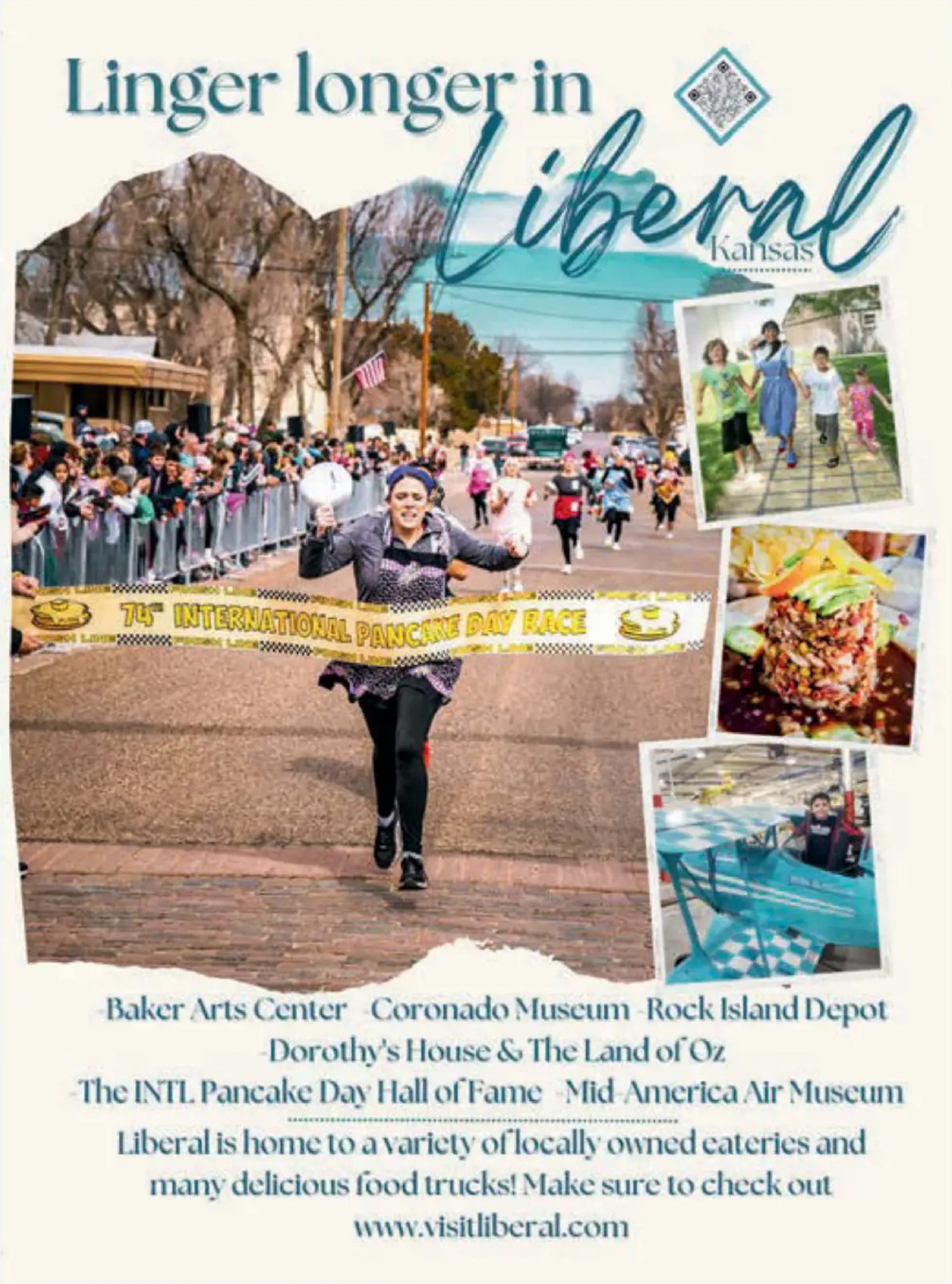
For more information, visit us at: www.finneycountycvb.com



VISITDODGECITY.ORG

THE ORIGINAL *Adventure*

ESTD 1872
Dodge City
BE YOUR WEST



Linger longer in *Liberal* Kansas

74th INTERNATIONAL PANCAKE DAY RACE

·Baker Arts Center ·Coronado Museum ·Rock Island Depot
·Dorothy's House & The Land of Oz
·The INTL Pancake Day Hall of Fame ·Mid-America Air Museum

Liberal is home to a variety of locally owned eateries and many delicious food trucks! Make sure to check out www.visitliberal.com

Seven Dwarfs Restaurant
Wheaton, Illinois

H*eigh-ho! Heigh-ho! It's off to lunch you go*! And if you are fairytale lucky, your noontime meal will find you dining on a suburban stretch of Roosevelt Road, twenty-six miles west of Chicago, at the Seven Dwarfs Restaurant in Wheaton, Illinois.

The Seven Dwarfs Restaurant stands as more than an eatery—it's a magical portal to a bygone era. Since 1954, this whimsical establishment has enchanted diners by serving up a touch of "happily ever after" with every plate.

If you're not greeted by owner Sam Sadiku, you'll still find yourself welcomed by a dining room straight out of a Brothers Grimm daydream—if the Brothers Grimm had written their tales over Formica tables and bottomless mugs of coffee. Vintage booths hug the walls, and murals of Snow White and the dwarfs smile down from above, while a classic counter beckons you to find a stool. Steeped in a heady mix of nostalgia, the Seven Dwarfs Restaurant is the kind of place where childhood memories are rekindled—with pie on the side.

The restaurant's story began when the original owner, fresh from a trip to Disneyland, brought a bit of pixie dust back to Wheaton. Inspired by the magic of family-friendly entertainment, he opened Seven Dwarfs on Illinois Route 38 with playful décor and homestyle cooking—a recipe for success that still defines the diner. The blend is part fairy tale, part twentieth-century Americana—and that makes it a memorable experience for even the Grumpy-est of travelers.

Like most smalltown institutions, Seven Dwarfs is more than it appears. It's a local hub, wherein generations of families gather and neighbors meet neighbors for breakfast. Since taking over in 1977, Sam Sadiku has embraced his role as caretaker of this community space, with the diner standing proudly at the town's warm, welcoming center.

Some of Wheaton's most famous residents—comedians and brothers John and Jim Belushi among them—worked here as teens, shuttling dishes and polishing silverware while growing up in town. Some locals like to imagine that John's early exposure to the bustling diner life inspired his famed "cheeseburger-cheeseburger" sketch that aired on Saturday Night Live in 1978. Today, the staff at Seven Dwarfs is happy to serve nine varieties of cheeseburgers, including those with toppings such as chopped Spanish olives or sautéed mushrooms.

Sadiku speaks fondly of recent visits from Jim Belushi and conversations about their shared Albanian heritage, but it's not celebrity connections that bring him the most pride—it's the role his restaurant plays in the broader Wheaton community. From its roots as a small family-run restaurant to its continued role as a treasured gathering spot, the Seven Dwarfs Restaurant has always put its customers first and foremost. "You take care of the people, and people take care of you," Sadiku says.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when many small businesses shuttered and faced tremendous losses, Sam demonstrated his commitment to the community by offering meals to those in need. All they had to do was ask. Despite strained supply chains and strict precautions, the restaurant's service remained steady. Grateful patrons filled online reviews with praise for the staff's dedication during uncertain times.

Seven Dwarfs
FAMILY RESTAURANT
OPEN

Seven Dwarfs Restaurant • 917 East Roosevelt Road • Wheaton, Illinois 60187 • (630) 653-7888 • sevendwarfsrestaurant.com

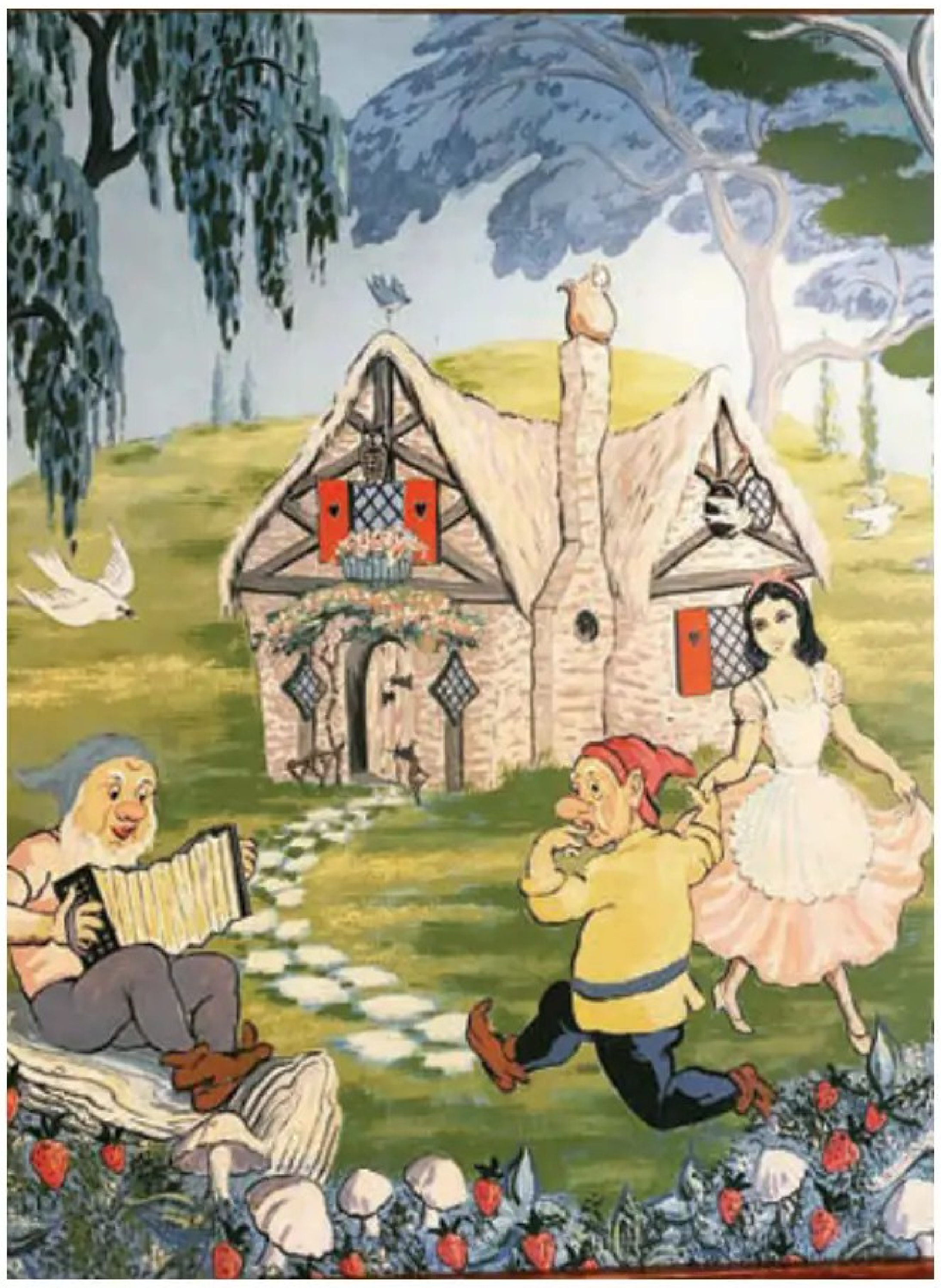
BY **BRIAN HODGE**

Now open daily from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Seven Dwarfs continues to serve up hearty comfort across breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Whether it's "off to work you go" or winding down after a long day in the mines, Sam and his team are always prepared with fresh options—including three homemade soups and four daily specials. The plates tend toward a mix of filling breakfast options and Greek-diner-inspired lunch items at reasonable prices. One of the restaurant's signature dishes, the Albanian Gyros Wrap, gives a tasteful nod to Sam's home country.

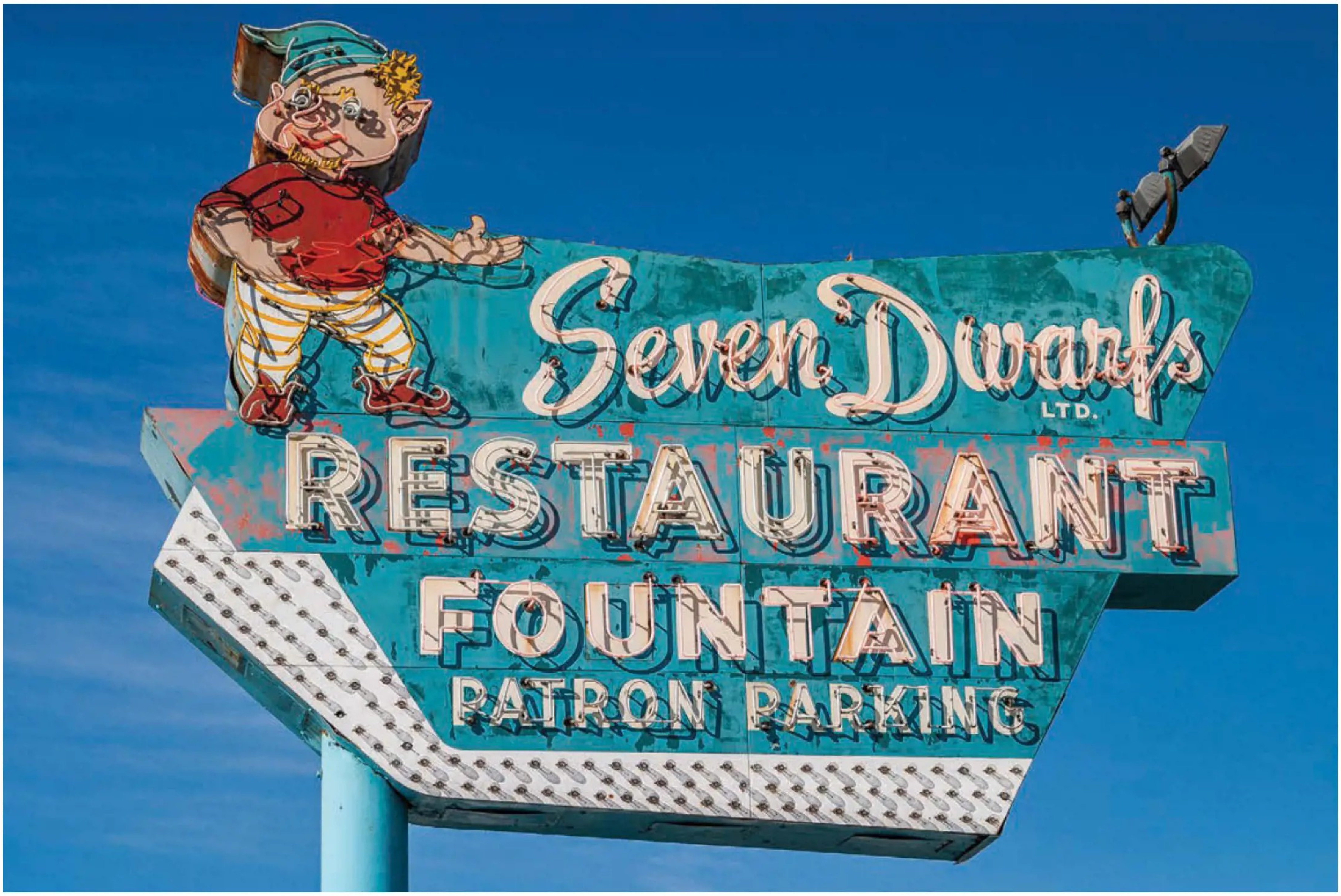
And then there's the diner's iconic ice cream fountain, an original feature from 1954 that still turns out the classics—from hand-spun milkshakes and root beer floats to banana splits and sundaes galore. Fan favorites include the Magic Kiss sundae with "globs of topping" and the Witch's Brew, an alluring concoction of eight scoops of different flavored ice cream and all the toppings.

Settle into a booth surrounded by colorful murals, retro knick-knacks, and comforting conversations, and it's easy to feel the alchemy of real-world pluck and community spirit that has kept this place humming for more than seventy years. More than a restaurant or a fairy tale, the Seven Dwarfs is a timeless touch of Americana and a friendly reminder that true magic lies in the everyday moments shared around the table. So heigh-ho yourself over there, unshoulder you pickaxe, and dig in.

BRIAN HODGE is a Rhode Island-based author and a Roadside Contributor at AMERICAN ROAD.



EVEN GRUMPY IS HAPPY: [Above] A dining room mural inside Seven Dwarfs Restaurant seems to have been inspired by the 1937 Disney feature film, but this Illinois eatery makes its own happy endings. [Below] The little neon fellow on the roadside sign has been welcoming diners to meals downright magical since the 1950s.



Seven Dwarfs Restaurant sign © Serhii Chrucky. Additional images courtesy Seven Dwarfs Restaurant.

The GROUP TRAVEL Family
Your 1st Choice in Group Travel Solutions
TRAVEL MARKETPLACE
THEATER
DeGray Lake Resort State Park
THE LODGE at Mount Magazine State Park
Going On Faith

Advertorial

Travel is attracting a new legion of side-giggers as people discover their friends, family and acquaintances have the desire of traveling together as a group. "This is good news for those who love to travel and know others ready to enjoy traveling together" says Charlie Presley of the Group Travel Family of Brands. GTFofBrands is an organization serving 25,000 volunteer travel-giggers with education and networking, helping them succeed in leading friends and family on trips. "Its rewarding to see people evolve their love of travel into a side-gig that serves people as well as the rewards of free travel" adds Presley "I became involved with a group of women who love to travel and the planner in me kind of took over and started thinking about leisure trips" says Jerri LaHaie. Jerri went on to say. "It's been surprising how easily my skills have transferred to this and I'm finding it to be a lot of fun."

There is pent up desire for travel and you will find that your friends and family are just waiting for someone to plan the trip for them. If that is the case, you need to explore the travel-gig opportunity.

As a reader of this publication, you already know of great destinations, so why not give it a try? Its easy to get started and GTFofBrands will give you the tools and networking to start your new travel-gig career. GTFofBrands offers conferences, publications, and on-line tip with no membership fee. The organization features seven conferences to learn how to be a travel leader, these gatherings are held at destinations of interest like Green Bay, Branson, Zion National Park, Buffalo/Niagara, and Chesapeake Virginia to name a few. You have the choice of attending the conference that best serves you including, Select Traveler Conference for International travel, Goin On Faith for faith based travel, The African American Travel Conference, and Boomers in Groups serving the mature and boomer mark "If you like travel, and the satisfaction that comes from creating an experience that people will remember forever, you're in the right plac added Ms LaHaie.

If you are interested in starting a travel-gig or to learn more about attending the above conferences, we invite you to visit grouptravelfamily.com or call 800-628-0993.

SANTEE COOPER COUNTRY

ADVENTURE

Starts Here

Berkeley, Calhoun, Clarendon, Orangeburg and Sumter Counties. Est 1968

Start planning your trip today. It's worth the drive.

For a free visitor guide visit santeecoopercountry.org

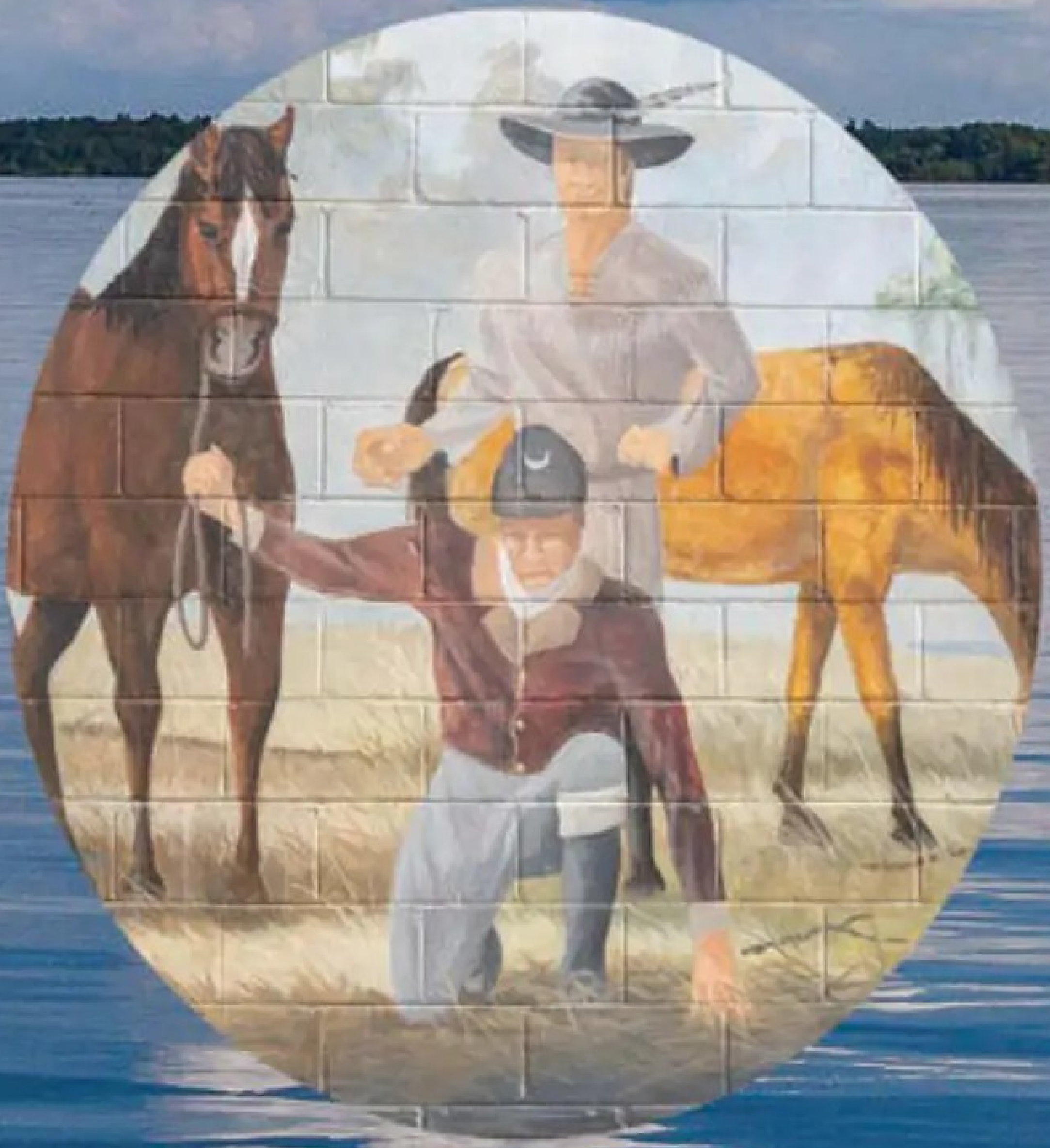
Call 1-803-854-2131

Sumter Opera House
sumteroperahouse.com

See a play at the historic Sumter Opera House

Tour American Revolutionary War Battle Sites

- Lordberkely.org
- Calhoun County Museum
- Swamp Fox Murals Trail



Swamp Fox Murals Trail
clarendonmurals.com

Travel to award winning scenic gardens that have been featured in motion pictures:

- Edisto Memorial Gardens
- Cypress Gardens
- Swan Lake Iris Gardens

Eat like a local at:

- Sweatman's BBQ
- Summerton Diner
- The Barony House
- The Lake House

The Lake House

DISCOVER
South Carolina
DiscoverSouthCarolina.com

AMERICA'S PLAYGROUNDS

OUR NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, BEACHES, MONUMENTS, AND HISTORIC SITES

• BY ROBERT PATRICK

"Bryce Canyon"

Ebenezer Bryce was a devout Mormon, which makes it an amusing quirk of history that he's credited with delivering one of the Old West's driest oaths. Asked about his first impression of the hoodoo-filled Utah canyon that now bears his name, Bryce allegedly replied, "It's a helluva place to lose a cow."

Jim Bryce, who helps run a foundation dedicated to telling his great-grandfather's story, suspects that the quote actually came from one of Ebenezer's wilder "cowboy" sons, regardless of what the plaque in Bryce Canyon National Park says. Either way, the journey that took Ebenezer Bryce from Scotland to southern Utah is a heck of a story.

Disowned by his father for converting to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at age 17, Bryce joined a group of fellow Mormons on a ship bound from Scotland to New Orleans. From there, he made his way to Salt Lake City, where he married Mary Ann Park in 1854. Finding use for his training as a ship's carpenter in the desert, Bryce designed and helped build the Pine Valley Chapel in Pine Valley, Utah, roughly in the shape of an upside-down boat. The chapel, constructed in 1873, is the oldest Mormon house of worship in use.

In 1874, with direction from the LDS Church, Bryce moved his wife and family south to the Paria Valley, which had been scouted as possible grazing land. Settling near the town of Tropic, he and his sons wandered into a nearby canyon in search of water and timber. Leaving his sons behind, Ebenezer headed further into the canyon to explore.

"He was gone longer than expected, and came back talking about the wonderful hoodoos he had seen," says Gail Bryce, another great-grandson, who recently completed a biography called *The Remarkable Life of Ebenezer Bryce*. "It then became known as Bryce's Canyon."

Pioneer life was hard, however, as was raising a family that grew to include twelve children. Ebenezer rarely returned to the canyon; in fact, he never even mentioned it in an autobiography written years later. The family's stay in the area was brief: Worries about Mary's health led the Bryces to relocate to the upper Gila River valley in Arizona less than two years later.

There, Bryce set his carpentry skills to work again, building a new family home, first of wood, and later of red brick. The latter house, completed in 1897, is one of the few surviving structures in the tiny town of Bryce, Arizona. The Ebeneezer and Mary Ann Bryce house operates as a museum, not just to honor the family memory but also to tell the story of early pioneers and life in the late nineteenth century.

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK is located along Utah State Route 63 south of Utah State Route 12. For more information visit nps.gov or phone (435) 834-5322.

Written in Stones

It's one of history's ironies that a man described by Jim Bryce as a humble "ordinary guy" would end up lending his name to a town, a mountain (the 7,298-foot Bryce Peak in the Gila Mountains), and one of America's most famous national parks.

Bryce Canyon © Jimmy Lopez.

"He probably would have liked to have been remembered as a person who was kind and generous to others and helped out when he could," adds Gail Bryce.

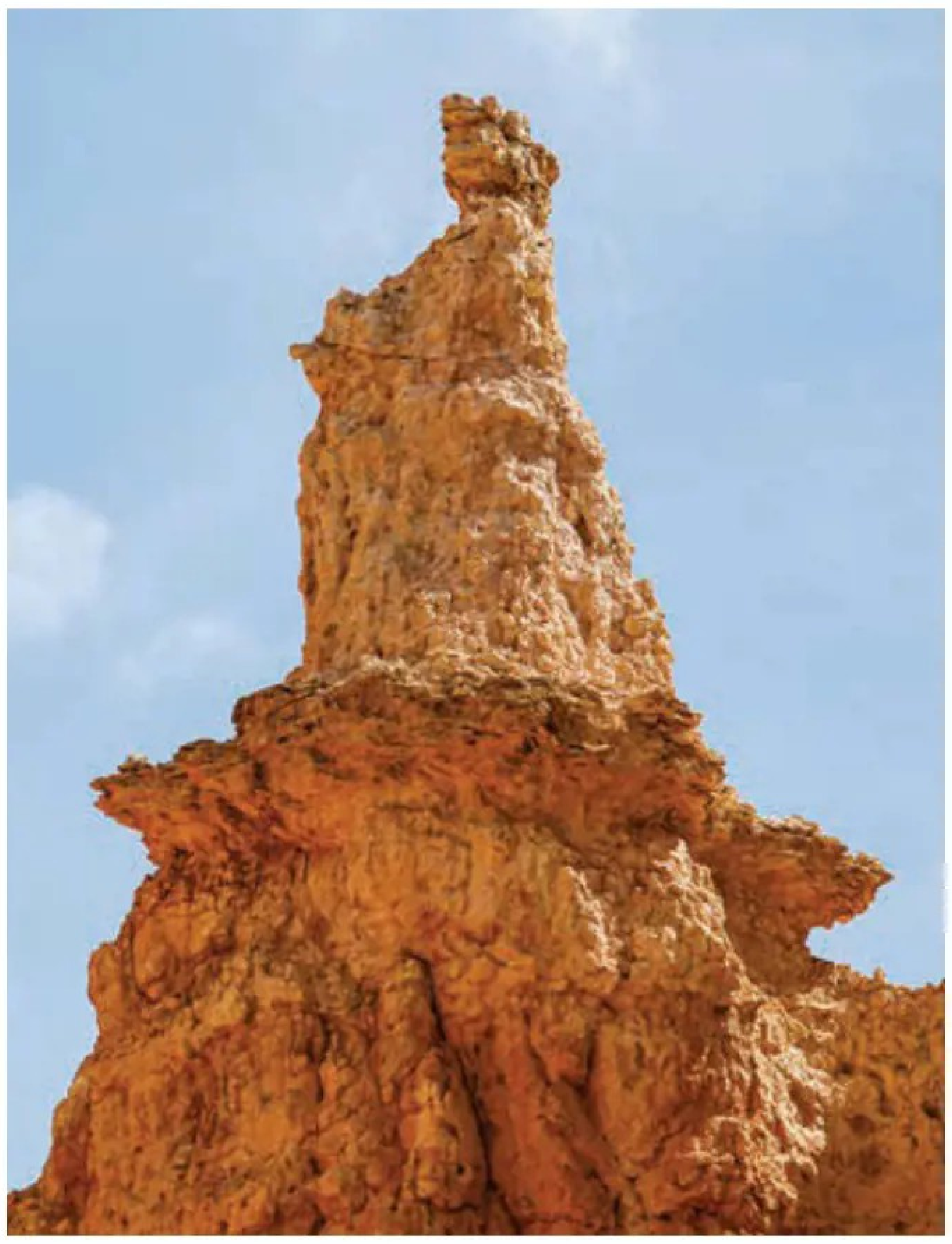
Ebenezer Bryce died in 1913 and is buried near his Arizona home, just missing by a few years the establishment of Bryce Canyon National Monument (later, National Park) in 1923. The Bryce homestead, located near the Bryce Amphitheater, is long gone, but visitors to the park can linger far longer than Ebenezer did to hike the canyon and commiserate with the hoodoos.

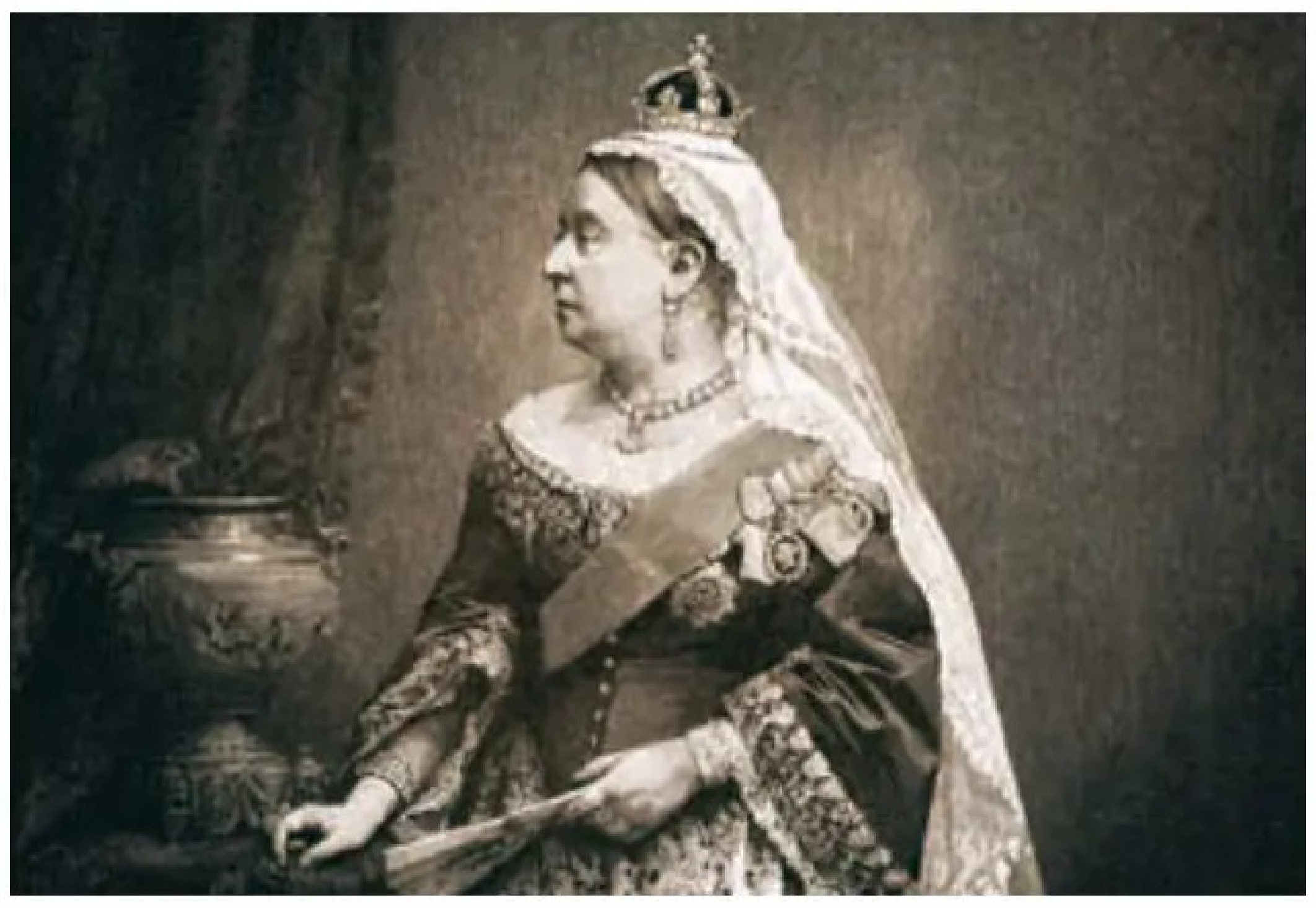
Of course, Bryce didn't really "discover" the canyon. The natural amphitheater along the eastern side of the Paunsaugunt Plateau, surrounded by 35,000 acres of federal parkland, was visited by American Indian tribes for at least 10,000 years before the Mormons arrived. The area's harsh winters, which persist to this day, likely discouraged permanent settlement, but archaeological evidence suggests that the hunters tracked down everything from rabbits to mammoths in the park.

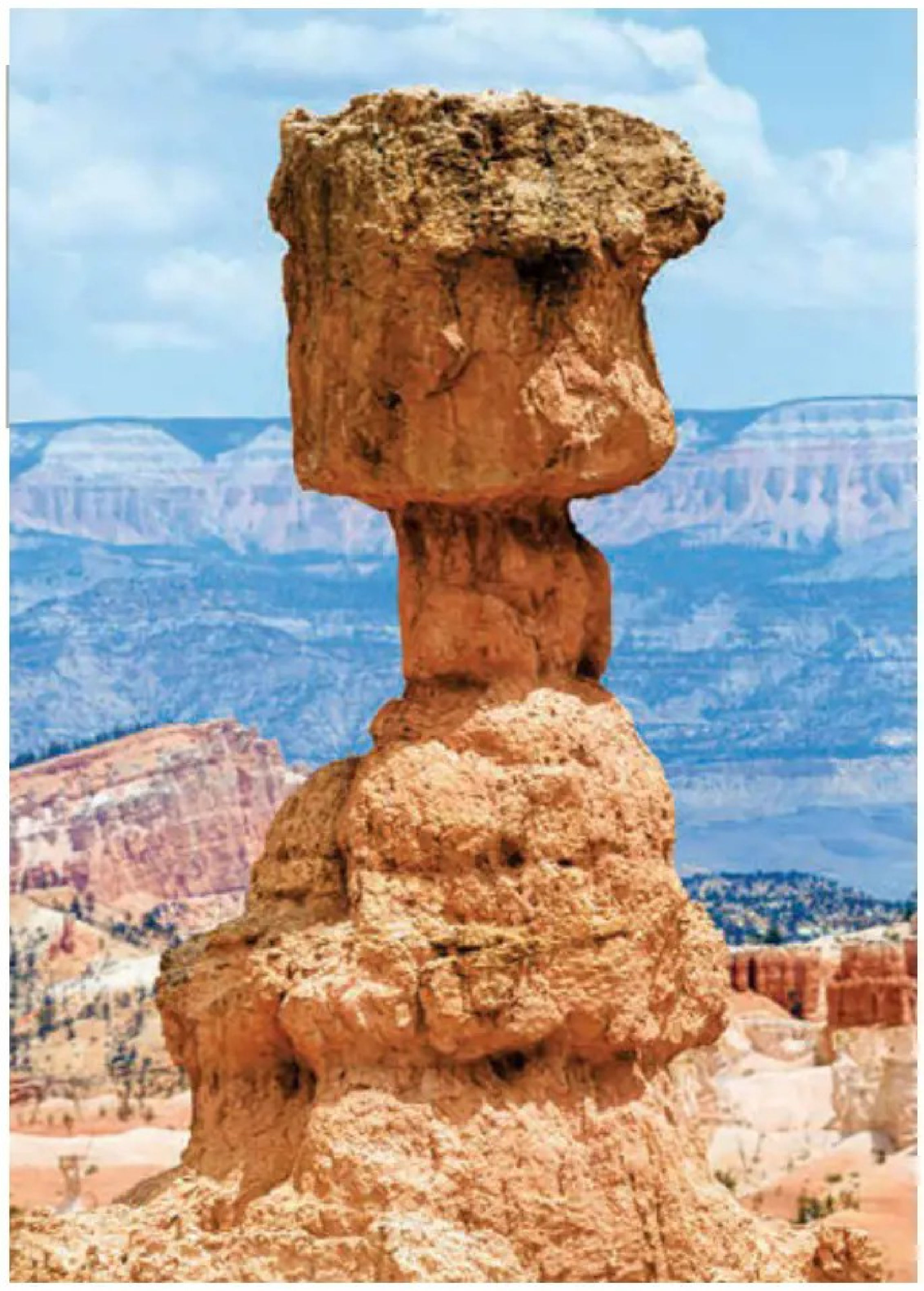
Paiute Indian legend holds that ancient gods turned misbehaving shape-shifting people into stone in Bryce Canyon, and it's quite easy to imagine the hoodoos taking the shape of faces and animals. In fact, many of them are named. Not solid Mormon names like Lehi or Moroni, but appellations that reflect their shapes and settings, like the regal Queen Victoria and the Three Wise Men along the Queen's Garden Trail and Peekaboo Loop, Thor's Hammer on the Navajo Trail, and the Chessman on the Sunrise Point to Sunset Point Trail.

Created by erosion, and especially the power of water and frost, the hoodoos are the most prominent of Bryce Canyon's multicolored mudstone formations, although the same forces also created the fins, spires, slot canyons, and the Wall of Windows that frame squares of brilliant blue skies. The beauty of the canyon can also be transitory: for decades, visitors watched as the famous hoodoo called the Sentinel grew ever thinner due to erosion until it finally toppled in 2016.

While the canyon represents a mere fraction of Bryce Canyon National Park, it's the focal point for nearly all activity in the park. Modern visitors can leave their cows at home, but should pack comfortable shoes for walking and hiking as well as protection from Bryce's high-elevation chill: Overnight temperatures can drop into the 40s and 50s even at the height of summer.

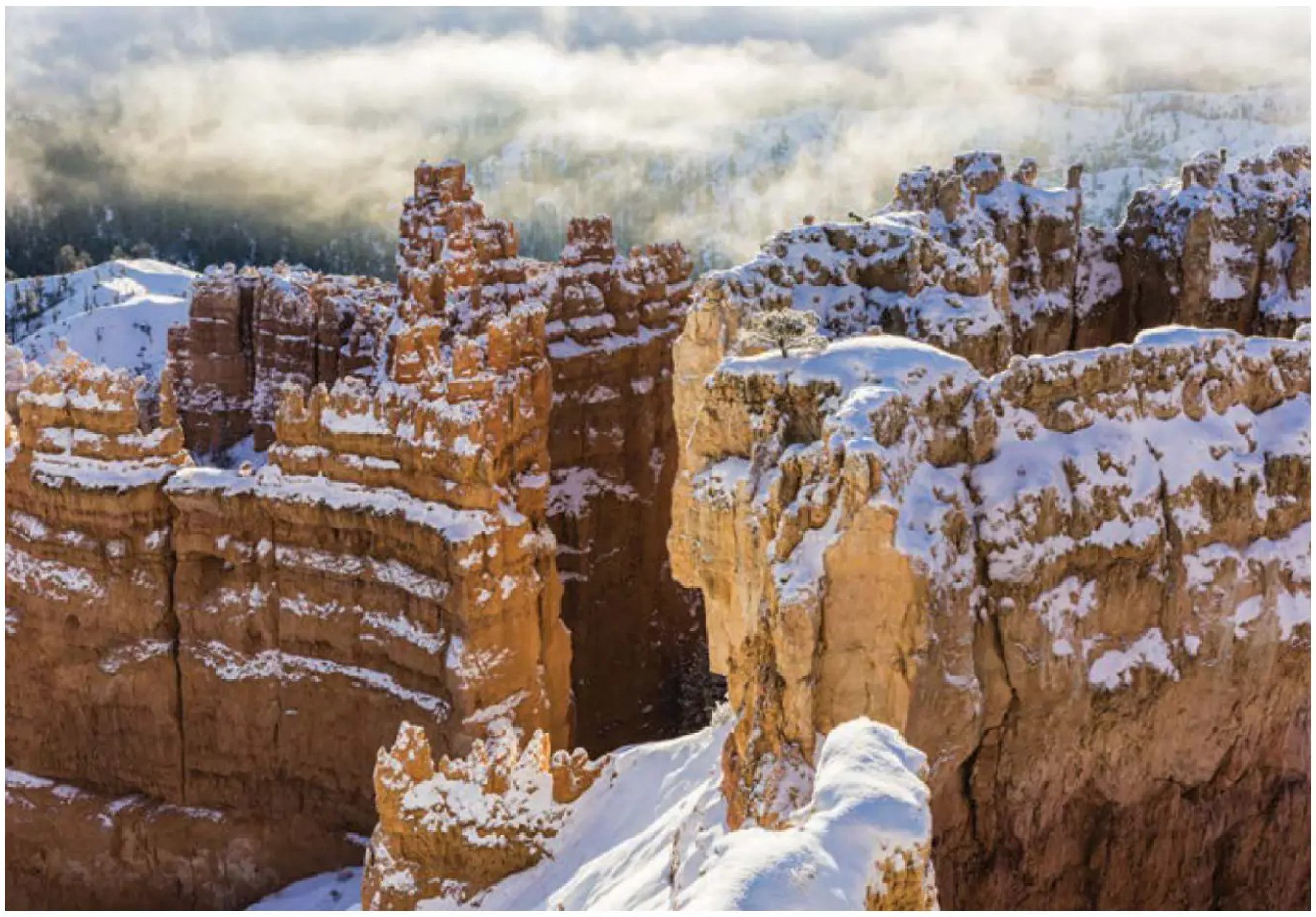


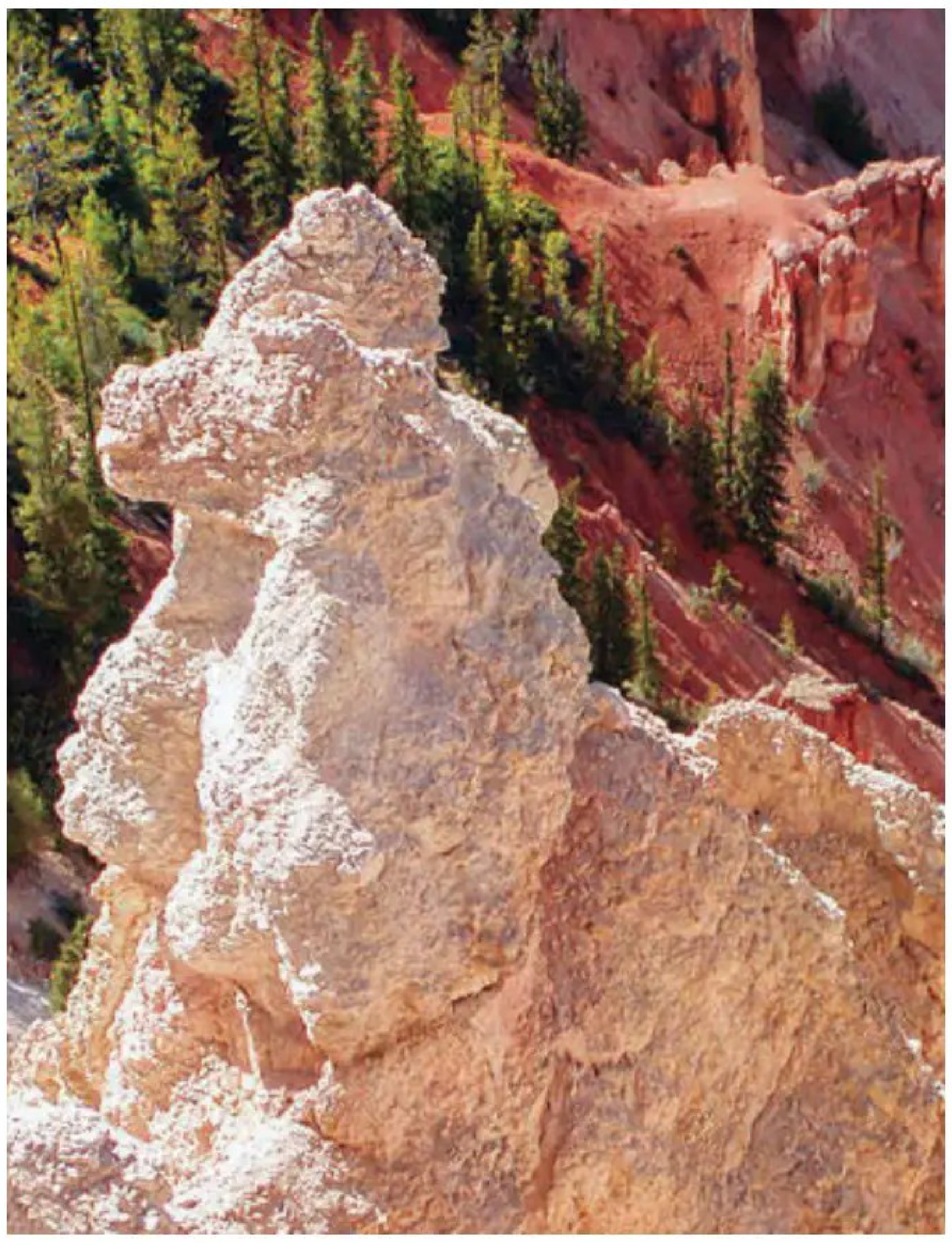


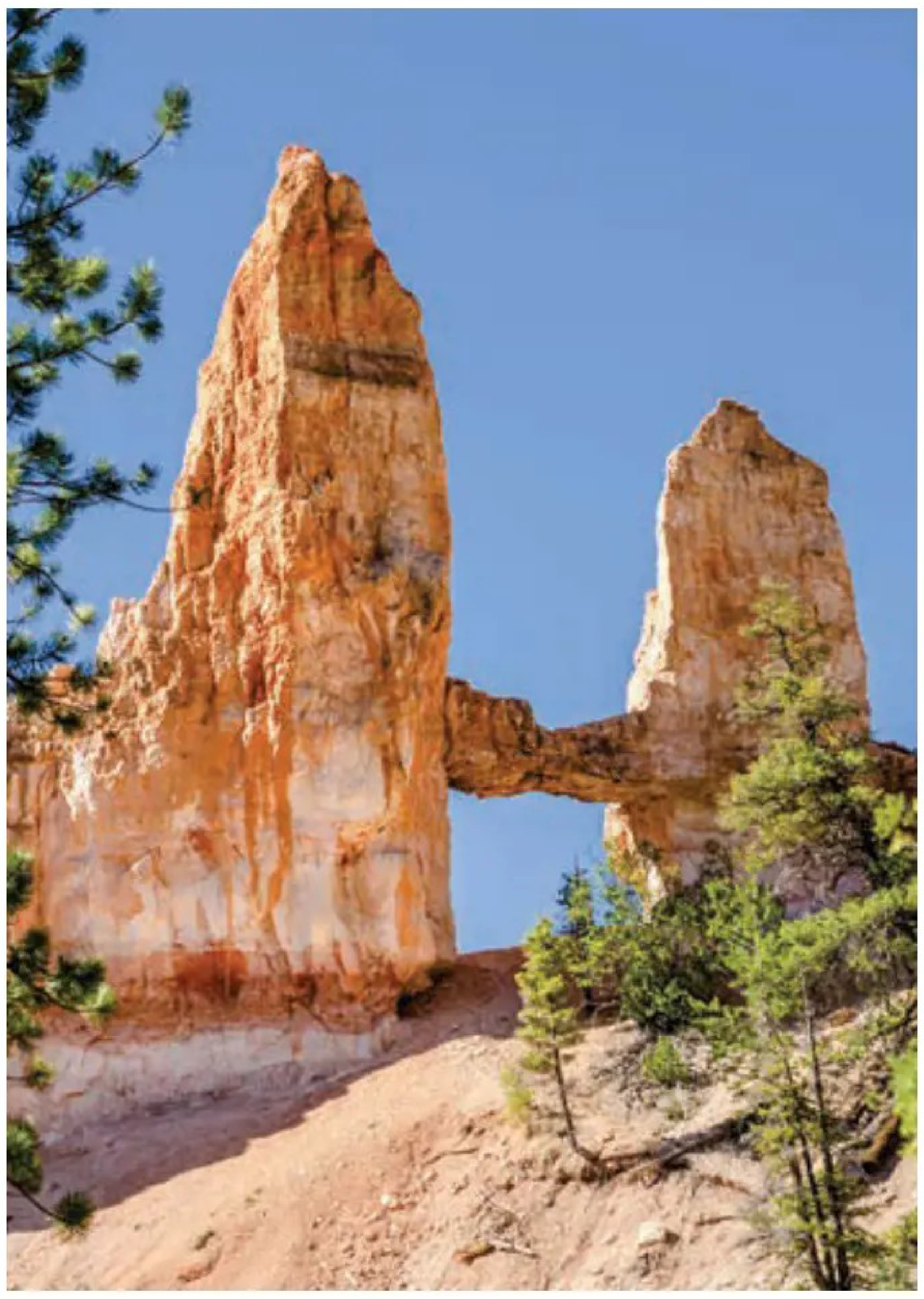


WHAT'S UP, DOC? Visitors to Bryce Canyon National Park will see fanciful figures in the hoodoos. The Rabbit [top] pricks up its ears at Agua Canyon viewpoint, while Queen Victoria [center and center right] reigns over a spur on the Queen's Garden Trail. Thor's Hammer [right] recalls the heavy weapon wielded by the Norse god. The 150-foot tall spire can be seen from the Rim Trail at Sunset Point. It is one of the most popular features in the park, thanks to all the *Avengers* fans.

Rabbit formation © Pierre Steenberg. Queen Victoria formation © Alfred Kohl. Thor's Hammer formation © Ian Dagnall.







I SPY, INTERNATIONAL VERSION: [Top] The Wall Street section of the Navajo Trail at Bryce Canyon suggests the heights and steep sides of the skyscrapers in its namesake Manhattan district. [Center] The Poodle is a hoodoo that looks like a French pup with floppy ears, a well-groomed top knot, and poofy tail pom. [Above and left] Located on the southern portion of the Fairyland Loop Trail, Tower Bridge is a massive formation named for London's iconic 1894 drawbridge.

The rewards for a Bryce Canyon visit are many, however. Spidering out from the rim of the canyon—actually a series of natural amphitheaters — are a network of hiking trails leading down, through, and up the eroded landscape, making visitors feel like part of the experience rather than just observers. With more than twenty miles of canyon lands filled with hoodoos up to two hundred feet high to explore, the options are nearly endless.

"Fairyland" is an apt description of Bryce Canyon as a whole as well as the name associated with several of the park's best features. The Fairyland Loop Trail combines a rim hike with a plunge deep into the Bryce Amphitheater; the full, eight-mile hike begins and ends at Fairyland Point, which offers some of the most spectacular views in the park. It can be hiked, in whole, in five to six hours, but it can also be tackled in shorter segments, such as the three-mile out-and-back Tower Bridge Trail. The highlight of the shorter trail is a closeup look at the Tower Bridge hoodoo; the full Fairyland Loop, which features vistas of the towering Fairyland Castle mesa, also known as the Boat Mesa or Chinese Fortress, is often a less-crowded alternative to more popular hikes like the Navajo/Queens Garden Loop.

The especially intriguing Tropic Trail leads out of the base of the Bryce Amphitheater and all the way to the town of Tropic, Utah. Two miles south of town is where Ebenezer Bryce and his family lived during their relatively brief stay. The Bryce log cabin on the Paria River was eventually washed away in a flood, and even a replica of this sturdy but modest dwelling that once stood on the grounds of an old motel on Highway 12 has been disassembled and put into storage due to its deteriorating condition.

It's unknown if the cabin will ever rise again—it's too bad Ebenezer isn't around to lend a hand—but visitors can learn more about pioneer history at the Bryce Canyon National Park visitor center and local museums in nearby Panguitch and Hatch, as well as the Hole in the Rock Heritage Center in Escalante. As Ebenezer Bryce might say, it's a helluva way to lose yourself for a few hours—whether you've brought a cow with you or not.

ROBERT PATRICK is a Rhode Island-based writer and a Roadside Contributor at AMERICAN ROAD.

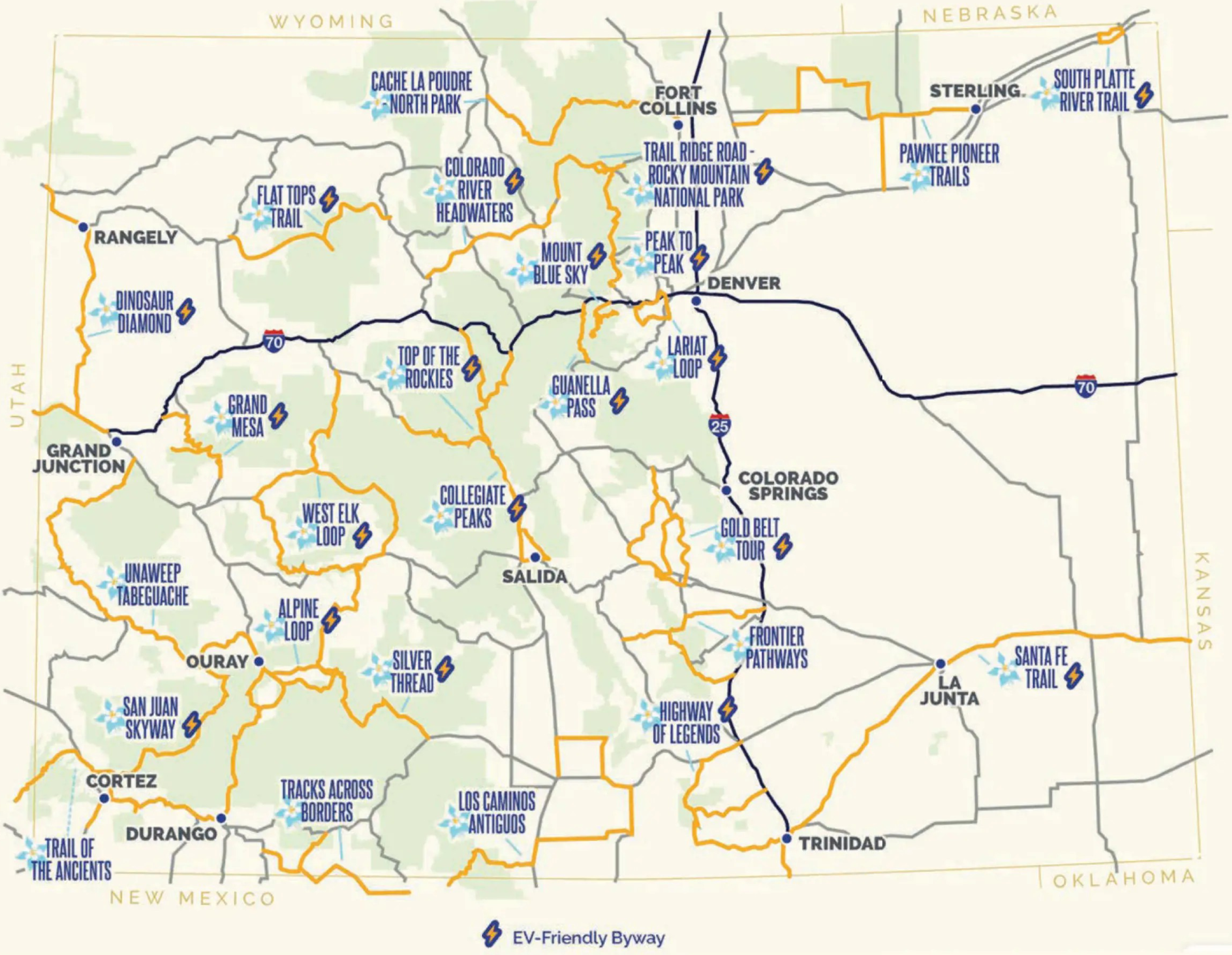
Wall Street formation © Colin Young. Poodle formation © F. Fredericks. Tower Bridge formation © Danita Delimont. Closing photo © Steven Prorak.

Advertorial

COLORADO'S 26 SCENIC AND HISTORIC BYWAYS

Colorado's 26 scenic and historic byways unite communities and the stories of their collective past. Along their varied course, these highways and backroads unveil myriad tales of Ute Indians, silver seekers, opportunistic settlers, ambitious entrepreneurs and crafty engineers. They also reveal the story of the Rocky Mountains and their remarkable creation, and how today, much of this wild landscape is still untrammeled by humankind.

More than just suggested road trips, these byways are a catalyst for the preservation of Colorado's culture, history and natural wonder. Uniting communities under a common project, the byways continue to bring people together (both locals and travelers) and connect them with the land. Thirteen of Colorado's 26 byways are designated as America's Byways, meaning they are nationally recognized for their outstanding scenic and historic attributes. In fact, no other state has as many nationally designated byways as Colorado.


WYOMING
NEBRASKA
UTAH
KANSAS
OKLAHOMA
NEW MEXICO
CACHE LA POUDRE NORTH PARK
FORT COLLINS
STERLING
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER TRAIL
TRAIL RIDGE ROAD - ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
PAWNEE PIONEER TRAILS
COLORADO RIVER HEADWATERS
FLAT TOPS TRAIL
RANGELY
MOUNT BLUE SKY
PEAK TO PEAK
DENVER
DINOSAUR DIAMOND
70
LARIAT LOOP
TOP OF THE ROCKIES
GUANELLA PASS
GRAND MESA
25
GRAND JUNCTION
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLLEGIATE PEAKS
WEST ELK LOOP
GOLD BELT TOUR
SALIDA
UNAWEEP TABEGUACHE
ALPINE LOOP
FRONTIER PATHWAYS
OURAY
SILVER THREAD
SANTA FE TRAIL
LA JUNTA
SAN JUAN SKYWAY
HIGHWAY OF LEGENDS
CORTEZ
TRACKS ACROSS BORDERS
LOS CAMINOS ANTIGUOS
DURANGO
TRINIDAD
TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS
⚡ EV-Friendly Byway

COLORADO

GREAT AMERICAN ROAD TRIP

COLORADO SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAYS

AMERICA'S BYWAYS®

Thirty+ Years of Scenic Vistas & History One Mile at a Time

1. CACHE LA POUDRE-NORTH PARK
- Photo Credit Jamie Brown
Travel alongside one of America's few Wild and Scenic Rivers and watch for grazing moose, granite canyon walls and historic landmarks.

2. PAWNEE PIONEER TRAILS
- Photo Credit Denis LeBlanc
Gain perspective on the Plains as you navigate what was once a path for ambitious settlers, entrepreneurs and migrating bison.

3. SOUTH PLATTE RIVER TRAIL
- Photo Credit Gail Meyer
Imagine the sounds of the galloping Pony Express horses and Overland Trail settlers who rode along this South Platte River-guided course.

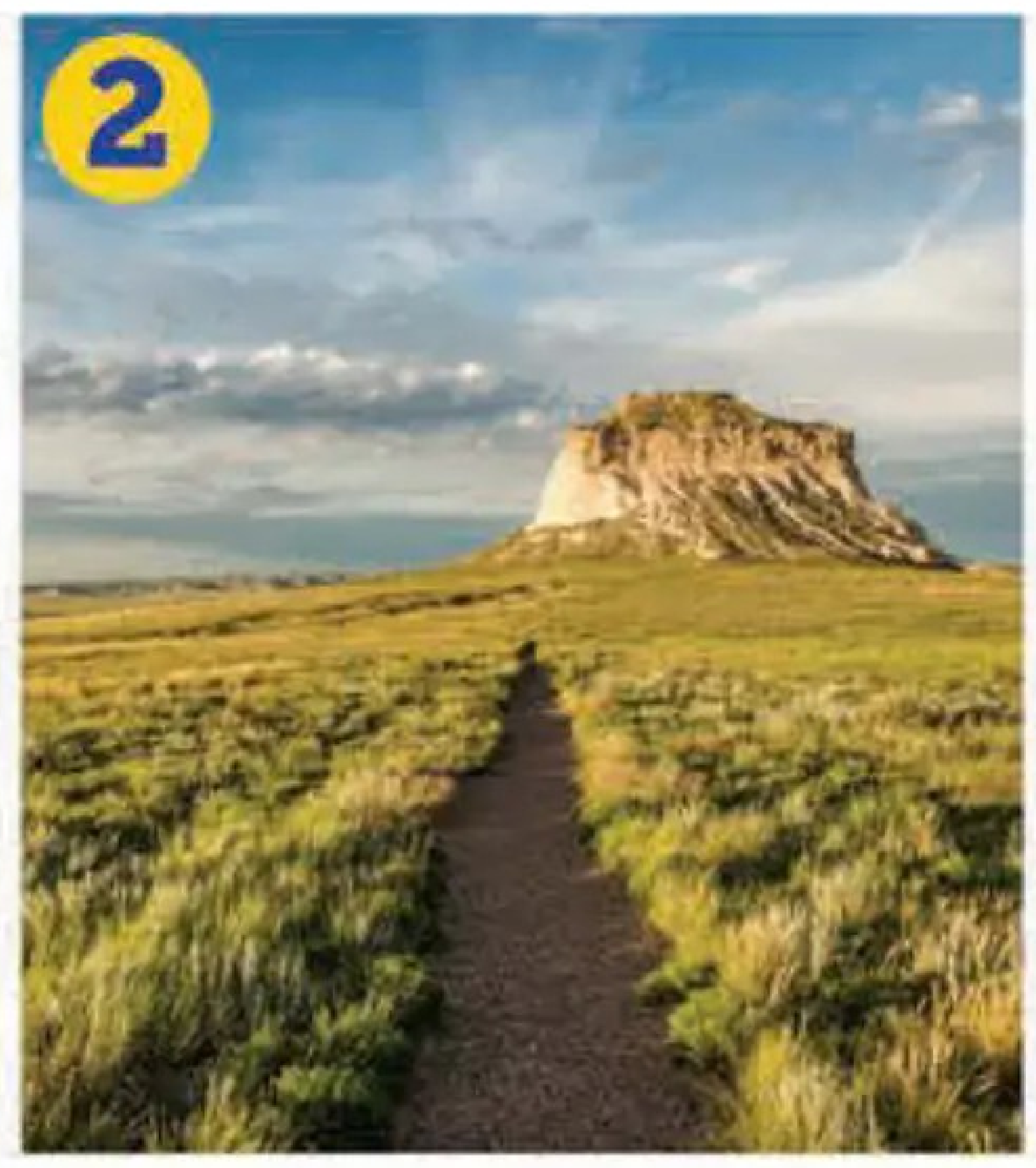
4. PEAK TO PEAK
- Photo Credit Cathy Edwards
Get up close and personal with the Continental Divide, mining ghost towns, Victorian opulence and stunning views of Longs Peak.

5. MOUNT BLUE SKY
- Photo Credit Cassandra Patton
Travel the highest paved road in North America on a serpentine ride to the summit of Mount Blue Sky.

6. GUANELLA PASS
- Photo Credit Cassandra Patton
Tour the preserved silver-mining town of Georgetown before rising in elevation to raw alpine wilderness.

7. TRAIL RIDGE ROAD
- Photo Credit Ann Schonlau NPS
Go above treeline inside Rocky Mountain National Park, along North America's highest continuous paved road.

1


2

3

4

5

6

7

COME EXPLORE COLORADOBYWAYS.ORG!

To get real-time road information, visit cotrip.org.

#ColoradoByways #GreatAmericanRoadTrip #Am250CO150

TEE TIME IN NEVERLAND

THE GAME NEVER GROWS OLD AT PETER PAN MINI GOLF

In Loving Memory of
Mike Dismukes
#LiveLikeMike
9.23.17
21

• BY BOB CURLEY

FLY BY: A birdseye view of Peter Pan Mini Golf reveals the layout of its two courses. The thirteen-foot statue of Peter Pan fronts the first hole on the West Course. "This hole is pretty easy," the Peter Pan Mini Golf website assures new players, "so you won't need fairy dust to fly through. . . ." *Photo courtesy Peter Pan Mini Golf.*

You don’t need to visit Neverland to putt your way through Peter Pan Mini Golf: this ageless wonder in the Texas state capital not only has thirty-six quirky and colorful holes, but it has played a big role in “keeping Austin weird.”

Located on Barton Springs Road in downtown Austin, Peter Pan Mini Golf reflects the community ethic and quirky aesthetic sensibilities of Glenn Dismukes, who founded the mini golf course in 1948 with his brothers, Jack and Clifford. Dismukes ran it for decades before turning the business over to his daughter, Margaret, and her husband, Julio Massad.

If you don’t remember a *Tyrannosaurus rex* in the Peter Pan story, that’s Okay. These tiny greens were originally built as a relatively unadorned, eighteen-hole course called Varsity Links that catered mainly to students at the nearby University of Texas at Austin.

“The original course was quite simple; it didn’t have the big carved characters,” says Margaret Dismukes Massad.

Peter Pan’s big carved characters, including the landmark namesake at the entrance, were added later, Massad says.

“My dad just loved the fantasy of *Peter Pan*,” she explains. “But the courses are very eclectic. We have Peter Pan and Captain Hook and Tinkerbell, but looming over Peter Pan is this life-sized T-Rex. Dad didn’t stick with a strict theme. We have a couple of pirates, a rabbit, a turtle. It was just whatever he fancied at any given moment.”

Inspiration came to Dismukes from unusual places.

“He would just go to the store and get a ceramic piggy bank and say, ‘I like this.’ So he’d come home and make the pig,” recalls Massad. “Peter Pan was modeled after the Jolly Green Giant, who was popular in vegetable commercials in the 1960s. As for the T-Rex, he loved dinosaurs, so he just decided to carve one. It’s about thirty feet tall, which I think it’s pretty close to the actual size for a T-Rex.”

Most of the statues were carved in the 1960s and early 1970s, although some have had more recent updates: the imagined home of the Old Lady Who Lived in a Shoe has been repurposed as a giant Converse sneaker, for example.

“That’s what the draw is,” says Massad. “People love the nostalgia of it. We have people come through that say, ‘I was here on my birthday in 1960, and now I’m bringing my grandkids and great grandkids.’”

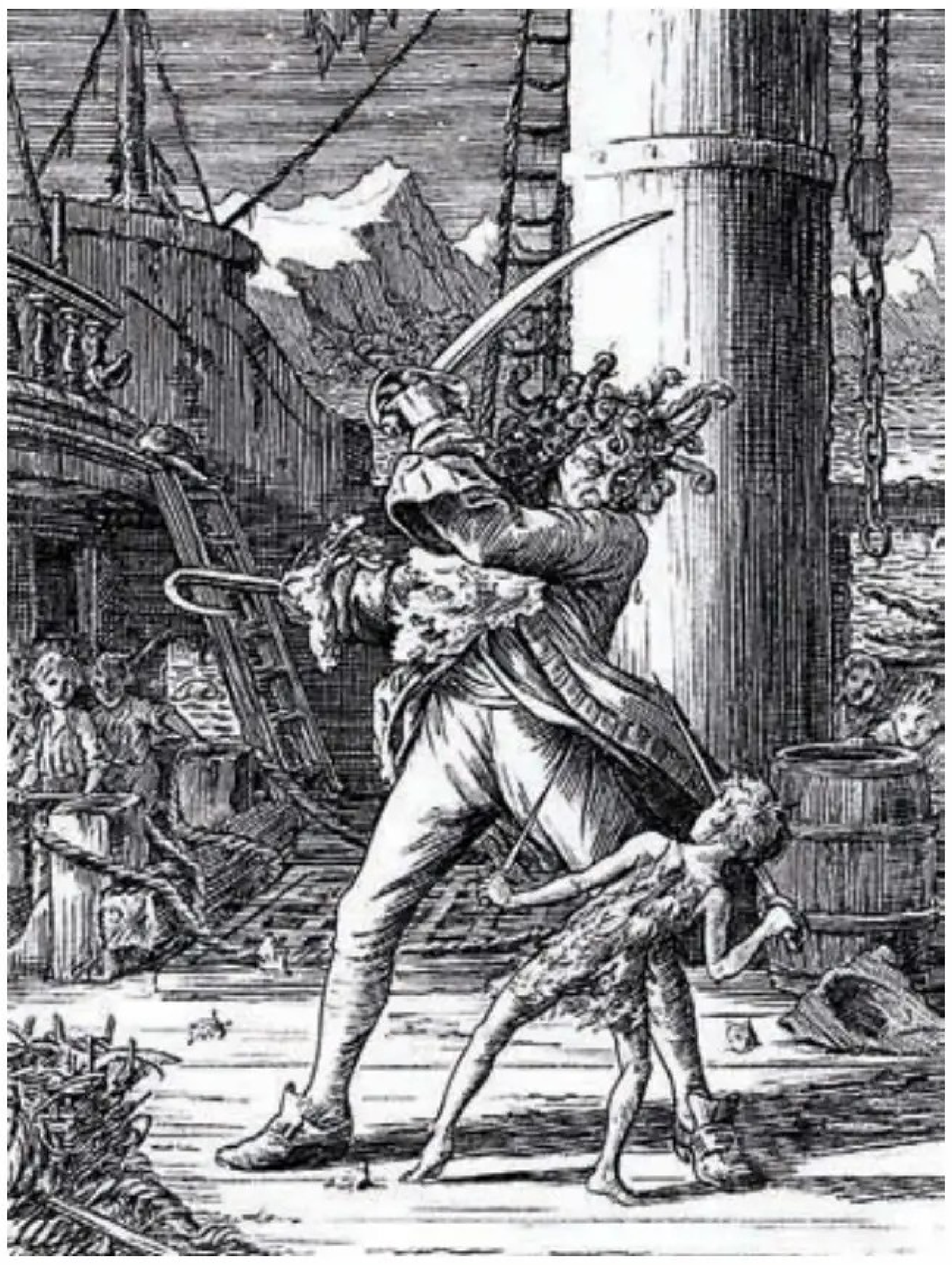
Running the mini golf wasn’t Dismukes’ full-time job: He owned a window-treatment business, which sounds significantly less interesting than a job with Peter Pan—except that the window company provided the equipment Dismukes needed to create his whimsical fantasyland.

Each statue is built on a wire frame, explains Massad, “and Dad had the machinery that could bend metal at his business. He would make an armature skeleton and spray it with polyfoam that you could carve and do the detail work on. And then the statue had to be completely covered in cement, because people would beat on them and climb on them.”

“He was not a professional artist,” she notes. “This wasn’t even his primary business. But once he got going, it was like a creative outlet for him.”

Some of the dozens of statues and sculptures are purely decorative, while others get involved in the game play. Included on the course, which expanded from eighteen to thirty-six holes in the early 1980s, all but a handful have some sort of created obstacle to putt around.

Peter Pan
Mini Golf
1207
Family Owned & Operated Since 1948



SECOND PAR TO THE RIGHT? [Right column] What do you get when you cross J. M. Barrie’s classic children’s novel with a miniature golf course? You get tiny greens filled with pirates and animals and the odd Skull Island that prove to players of every age how fun it is to feel young. [Opposite] The dapper figure of Captain Hook at Peter Pan Mini Golf stands on a pegleg—suggesting that the snappy crocodile stalking him has already scored more than a hand for a snack.

Skull courtesy Hillary Thomas. Captain Hook and Peter Pan Mini Golf sign courtesy Peter Pan Mini Golf.

THINK TINK! Not too long ago, Austin artist Cheryl Latimer painted old friends at Peter Pan Mini Golf with vibrant new designs. Her update for Tinkerbell left everyone's favorite pixie looking a lot more "butterfly." The fairy castle was spruced up, too. *Photo courtesy Peter Pan Mini Golf*

HELP US PROTECT
OUR NEW PLANTS
PLEASE STAY
ON THE PATH
THANK YOU!
17
2
3
4

> **"In a city where major attractions include a bridge that's home to millions of bats…and a saloon where chickens run the Sunday night bingo games, the mini golf remains revered."**

CHERYL LATIMER
2011

"We say the West course is more difficult, but the par on that is only one or two strokes higher," Massad says. "The East course has more multi-level obstacles and is popular with kids because it has the castles. The bridge hole is the most challenging: it's a figure four, and you have to hit it around an obstacle and then you have to get it over the bridge. There's no way to get a hole in one on that one."

It's a lot of fun squeezed into less than three acres of land. "It shows the creativity of my dad designing thirty-six holes on this little plot of land; you walk the grounds and you're like, whoa, how did he figure that out?'" says Massad.

Dismukes, who passed away in 1998, created and installed eighteen of the original structures on the property. Since 2011, his original creations have been maintained by local artist Cheryl Latimer, who also added several new sculptures to the grounds.

The statues have become beloved local landmarks in Austin and an integral part of the city's oddball personality. In a city where major attractions include a bridge that's home to millions of bats, a Museum of the Weird, the Cathedral of Junk, and a saloon where chickens run the Sunday night bingo games, the mini golf remains revered.

"You can see Peter Pan and the T-Rex from pretty much any direction in that busy intersection" at Barton Springs Road and South Lamar Boulevard, says Massad.

In addition to periodic updates by Latimer, like painting a "Lost Boys" football jersey on Peter Pan and converting a basic bridge obstacle into a replica of Austin's famous 360 Bridge, the statues get dressed up for holidays and other special occasions. Peter Pan has worn a Houston Astros cap for the World Series and a Santa hat for Christmas, for example, although Massad notes, "It's quite a challenge to get up to his head."

Birthday parties at Peter Pan Mini Golf have become an Austin tradition, and at $10 per person (or $15 to play both eighteen-hole courses), playing the course remains one of the most affordable entertainment options in town. Groups can even rent the East Course for private events, in two-hour blocks.

"One of our calling cards is that we keep it really inexpensive and we don't gouge on concessions," says Massad. "People can bring their own food and drink; we just ask them not to bring glass. If you come on a Saturday night, it's majority adults. It's not a bunch of little kids running around. It's adults out there on dates or with friends."

"We still have kept the really laid back nature of things. We're not corporate at all, and people really like that."

Visit Austin, the city's official tourism agency, includes Peter Pan Mini Golf as a perennial favorite on its list of top family friendly activities, and the course's location makes it easy to combine some putt-putt action with a pedal on the Barton Creek Greenbelt or a swim in the spring-fed Barton Creek Municipal Pool. Visitors can even compare and contrast Dismukes' amateur sculpting with the collected works of sculptor Charles Umlauf at the nearby Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum. (Umlauf himself wasn't above a little whimsy: some of his later works include castings of animals, including a rhinoceros, wild boar, and rooster.)

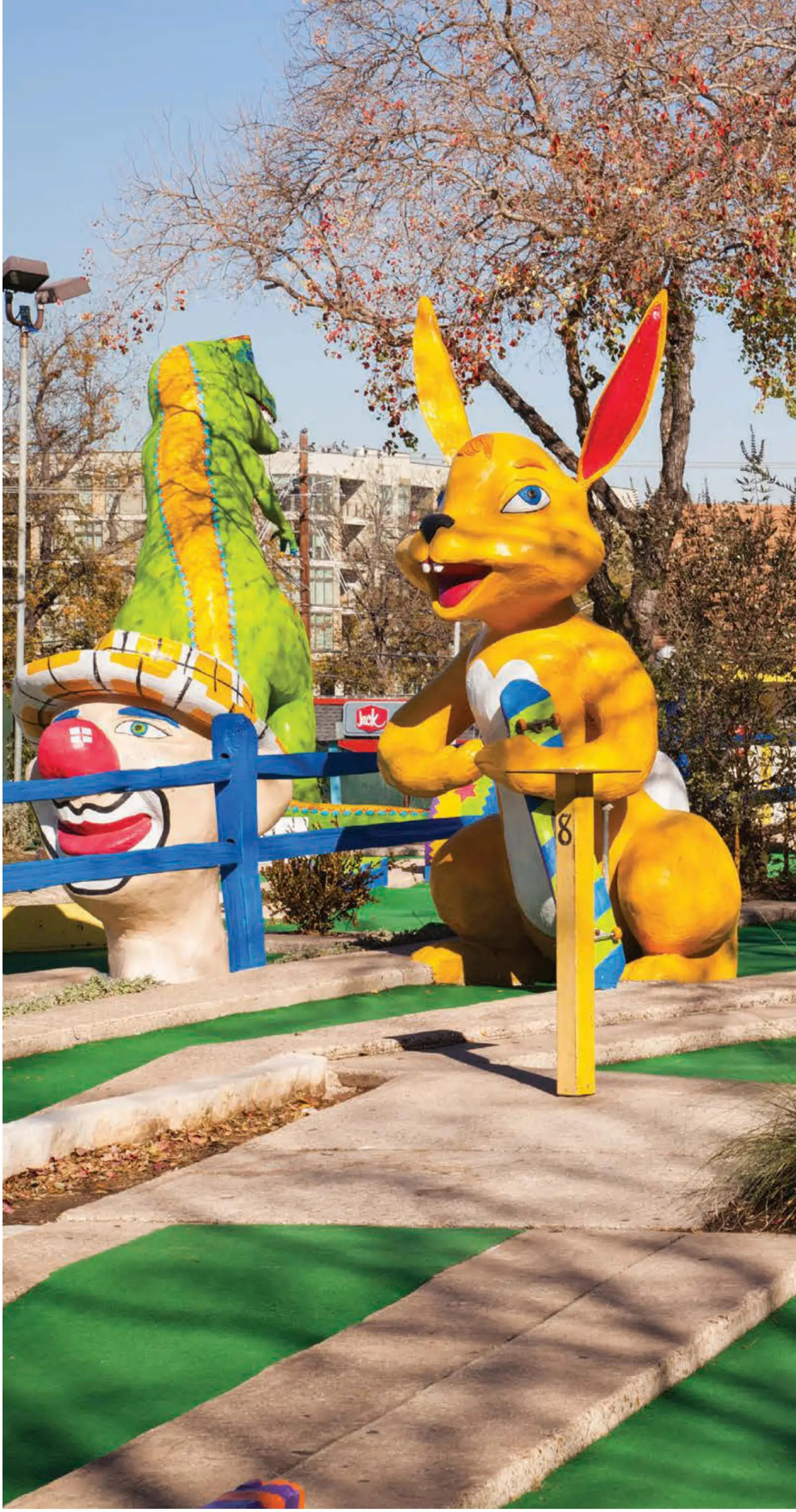
Status as a local icon hasn't guaranteed longevity for Peter Pan Mini Golf, however, in part because the Dismukes family has never owned the land under the course. The property has always belonged to someone else.

PETER PAN
Since 1948
MINI GOLF

FEETS, BIG AND SMALL: [Opposite] The giant T. Rex at Peter Pan Mini Golf was built by Glenn Dismukes because he loved dinosaurs—and after he finished a more modest brontosaurus in his backyard. [Right] The oldest statue on the courses is the shoe. Constructed in the 1950s as a nursery rhyme-inspired derby boot, it is now painted like a high-top tennie. [Right, top] With its enchanting turrets and monarch butterflies, the Fairy Castle thrills the littlest visitors.

Images courtesy Peter Pan Mini Golf

THE NEVER-ENDING STORY? Peter Pan Mini Golf has welcomed players since Harry Truman was president. In recent years, troubles with its land lease have called its future into question. Fans have launched a petition drive to see it declared a Historic Landmark so it is around for future generations to enjoy.



Images courtesy Peter Pan Mini Golf

"We were close to losing the lease back in the late 1970s," recalls Massad. "Then they discovered that this was an archaeological site where Native Americans had camped. There were all kinds of artifacts here: It's built on a high point, and Barton Springs, a wonderful water source, is just right there. So the owners were told they could not bulldoze the land or build on top of it."

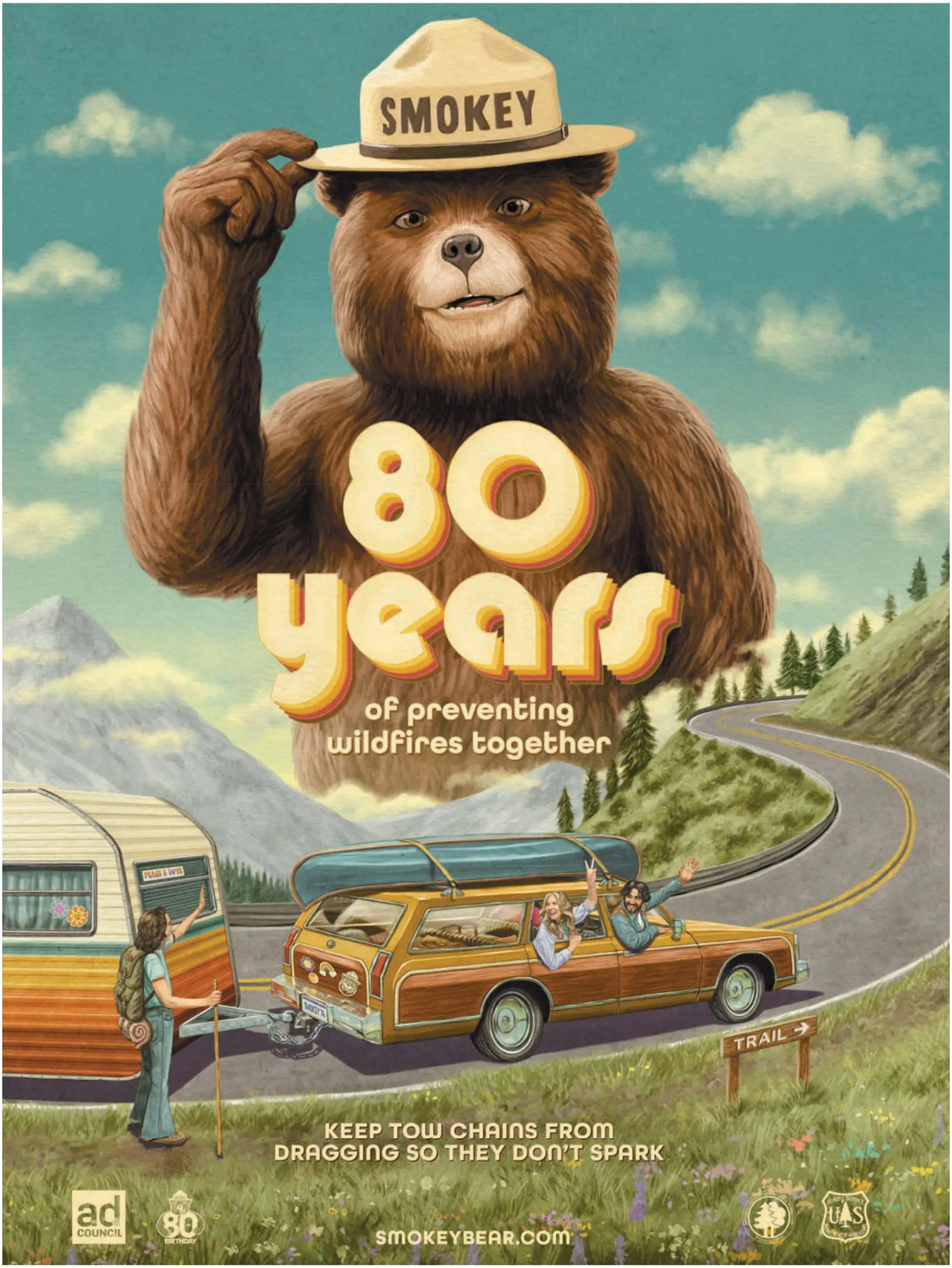
According to Massad, the site was recognized by the Texas Historical Commission, and the mini golf earned a place on the National Register of Historic Places. Nonetheless, another crisis arose in 2024 when Peter Pan Mini Golf's lease expired, again casting the future of the land—owned by a private trust established to help Texas orphans—in doubt.

Administration of the trust also changed hands, but fortunately Massad has been able to work with the city of Austin and the property owners to extend the property's short-term lease, which currently runs through September 2026.

"It's in a perfect location, and it's lasted even though a lot around us has changed," says Massad. "We keep hanging on, and we hope to hang on for many years to come. Peter Pan Mini Golf is a legacy business and the mayor recognizes that and appreciates that greatly. Places like Peter Pan Mini Golf are what makes Austin, Austin—quirky, weird fun."

BOB CURLEY is a Rhode Island-based author and a Roadside Contributor at **AMERICAN ROAD**.

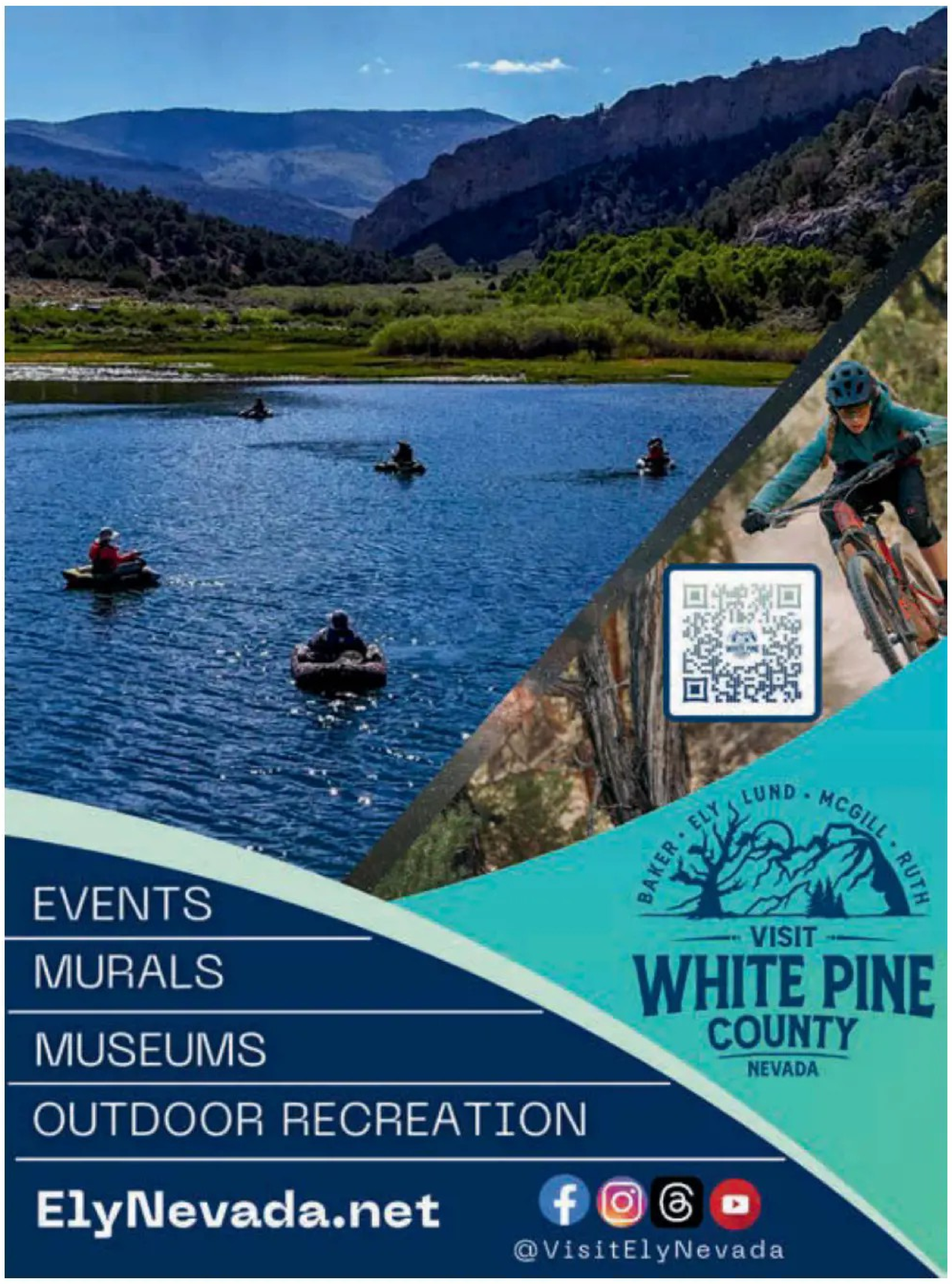
HELP PROTECT OUR PLANTS
PLEASE STAY ON THE PATH
6
6
HELP PROTECT OUR NEW PLANTS
PLEASE STAY ON THE PATH
THANK YOU!


SMOKEY
80 years
of preventing wildfires together
PEACE & LOVE
TRAIL
KEEP TOW CHAINS FROM DRAGGING SO THEY DON'T SPARK
ad COUNCIL
80 BIRTHDAY
SMOKEYBEAR.COM

Nacogdoches
THE OLDEST TOWN IN TEXAS
Get lost in the pines this Fall. Plan your restorative getaway at visitnacogdoches.org

WORD GAMES TO GO
Usborne Travel Activity Pad
The Answer to "Are We There Yet?"

paperpie brand partner
L13115.paperpie.com
Rebecca Repp, brand partner


EVENTS
MURALS
MUSEUMS
OUTDOOR RECREATION
ElyNevada.net
@VisitElyNevada
BAKER · ELY · LUND · MCGILL · RUTH
VISIT WHITE PINE COUNTY
NEVADA

Mother Goose House
Hazard, Kentucky

One fateful Thanksgiving in the 1930s, George Stacy took a gander at his wife's roasted goose, and an idea hatched—one that would make history in Hazard, Kentucky.

Inspired by that Thanksgiving meal, he set out to build a house like no other—an oval with a seventeen-foot-tall goose weighing two and a half tons nesting on the roof.

"Mind you," cautions his niece in an interview with local media, "he was drinking a little bit that night."

That Thanksgiving dinner—and maybe a little moonshine—inspired George to build an oval house crowned with a towering goose, complete with egg-shaped windows overlooking North Main Street in the small mountain city of eastern Kentucky. To get there, you might pass through Shoulderblade, drive past Busy, Typo, or Curly Fork, or travel even farther south to Happy, depending on your route. And no, the writer hasn't been sipping on George's leftover beverage; those are real communities.

"It wouldn't be Hazard without the goose," says Alice McIntosh, kin to George and his wife Ollie, creators of the structure, now a bed and breakfast called Mother Goose Inn. "When its head fell off, I was devastated."

Wait! What?!

Yes, one day in late March 2021, WYMT News led its broadcast with this somber story:

"We have some breaking news. The head of the Mother Goose landmark has fallen off."

The live shot from the scene included motorists honking (of course) and shouting, "Save the goose!"

Alice McIntosh, now the owner of Mother Goose Inn, told reporters: "I felt like somebody died."

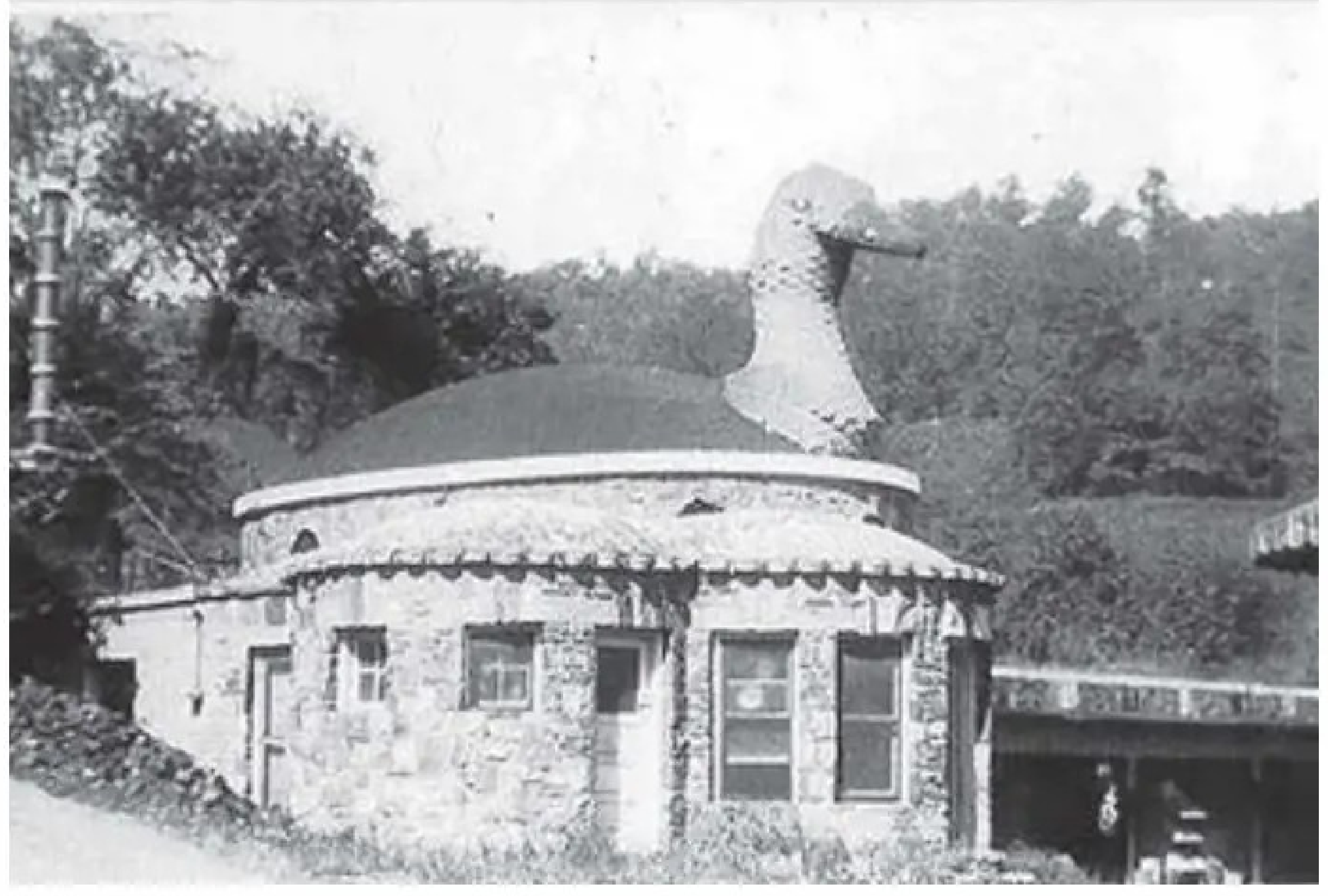
While shocking to passers-by, the collapse wasn't surprising to those who knew the structure well. Seeing Mother Nature's growing toll on Mother Goose, Alice, her family, and friends had already started an online funding page, figuring it was only a matter of time before the goose head—noticeably leaning—would need extensive repairs.

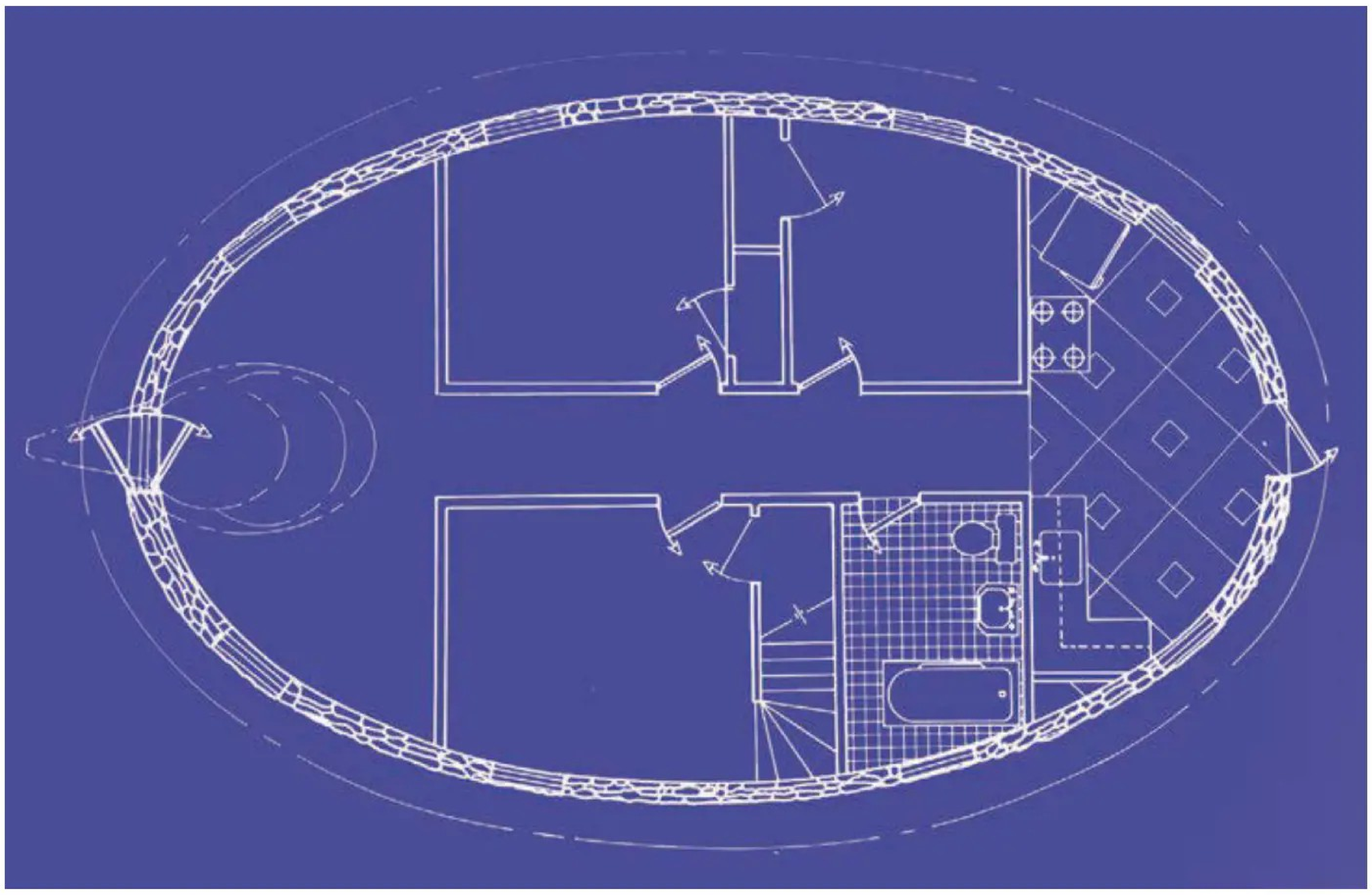
For the massive restoration, they turned to local fix-up man Keith Miller. After one look inside the fallen fowl, Miller wondered why he'd ever gotten himself into this beak-repair business. "I said to myself," he told the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, "'What the hell have I gotten myself into?'"

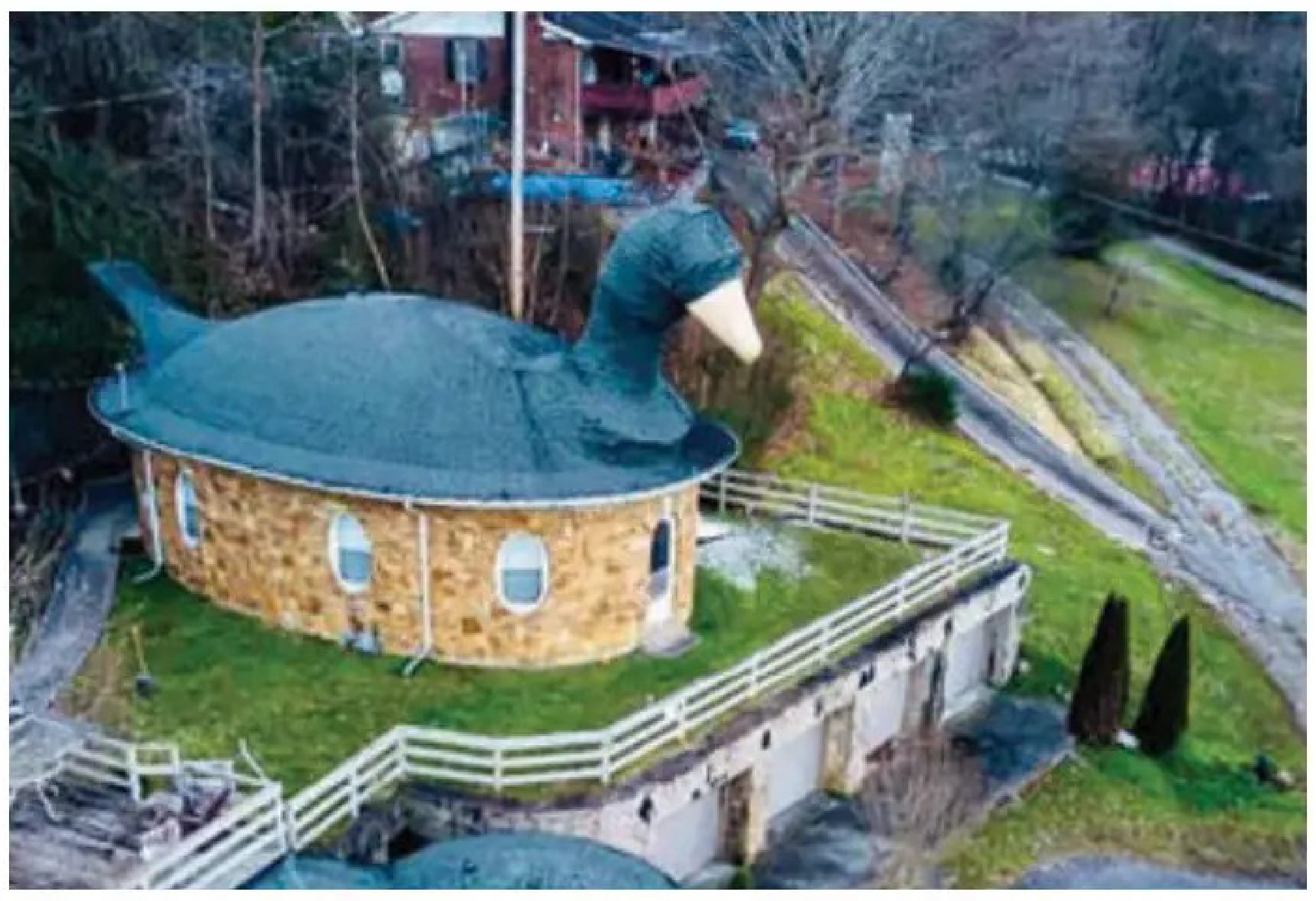
Miller's project took several months. Strengthening the roof around the giant goose head proved especially challenging. "This was technically difficult and expensive," says Craig Potts, Kentucky's Historic Preservation Officer. "Many were convinced that the head would never be reattached. The end result was certainly a preservation win."

Potts, whose job is devoted to making sure places like the Mother Goose House survive, says preserving the unique building takes on extra importance considering when the house was originally built—just when Americans were falling in love with road trips on better-paved highways.

THE EGG AND I: [Below] An architectural drawing of the Mother Goose House reveals the building's ovoid floor plan—appropriate for a structure designed to resemble a big bird sitting on a nest. [Right, center] Eagle eyes will note that the building's upper windows are egg-shaped, too.







Mother Goose House • 2906 North Main St • Hazard, Kentucky 41701 • (606) 438-0280

BY **MARK VERNARELLI**

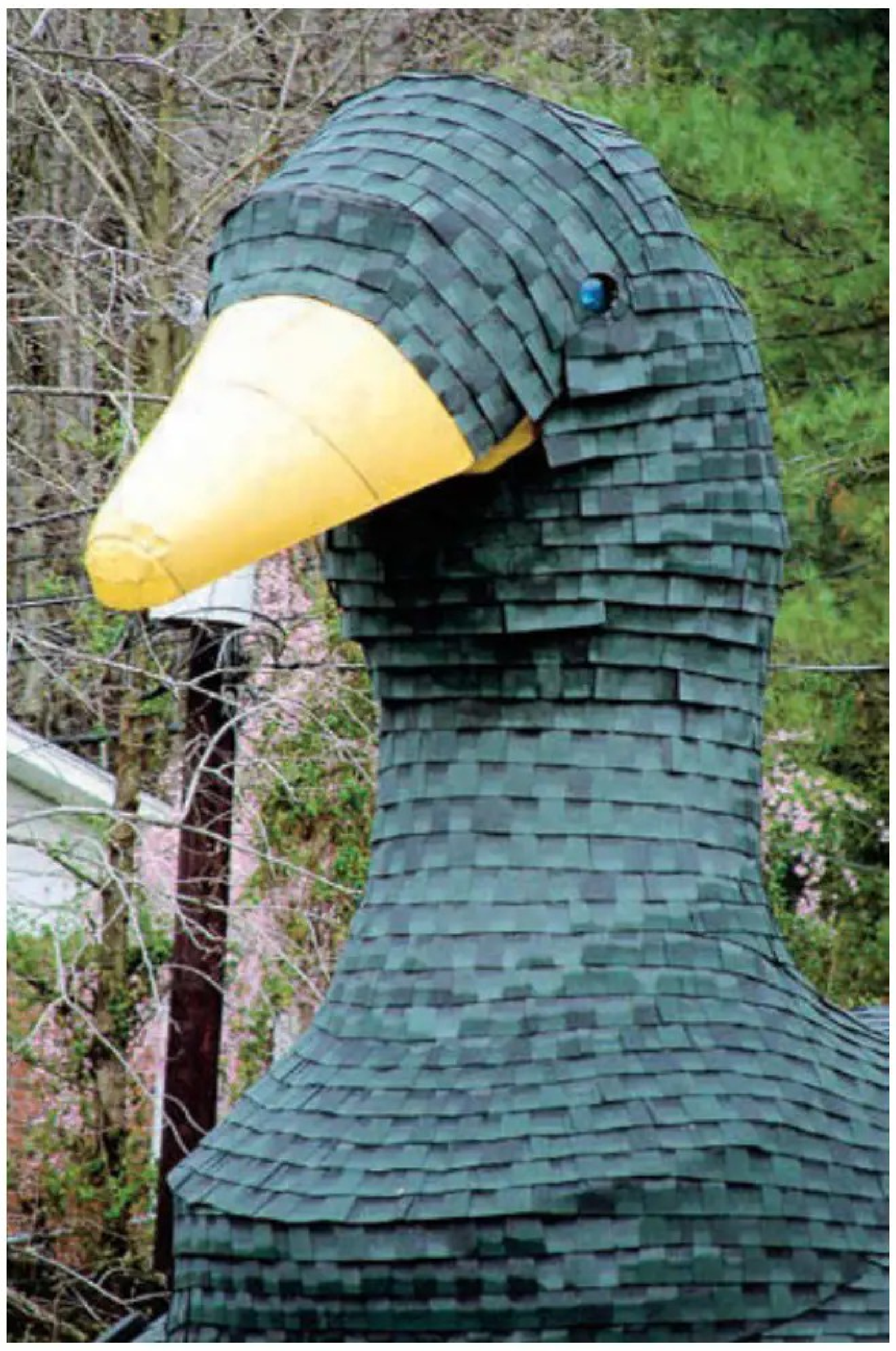
"This structure is a significant example of roadside architecture from Kentucky's burgeoning 'car-culture' period," notes Potts. It is a perfect example of what he describes as an architectural "duck" versus a "decorated shed." He explains that ducks are buildings shaped like objects, while decorated sheds need bold signage to attract attention. Both were designed to stand out to fast-moving motorists rather than pedestrians strolling past storefronts.

The website Gardens to Gables—proclaiming "every historic building has a story to tell"—sums up the salad days of Hazard's most famous structure:

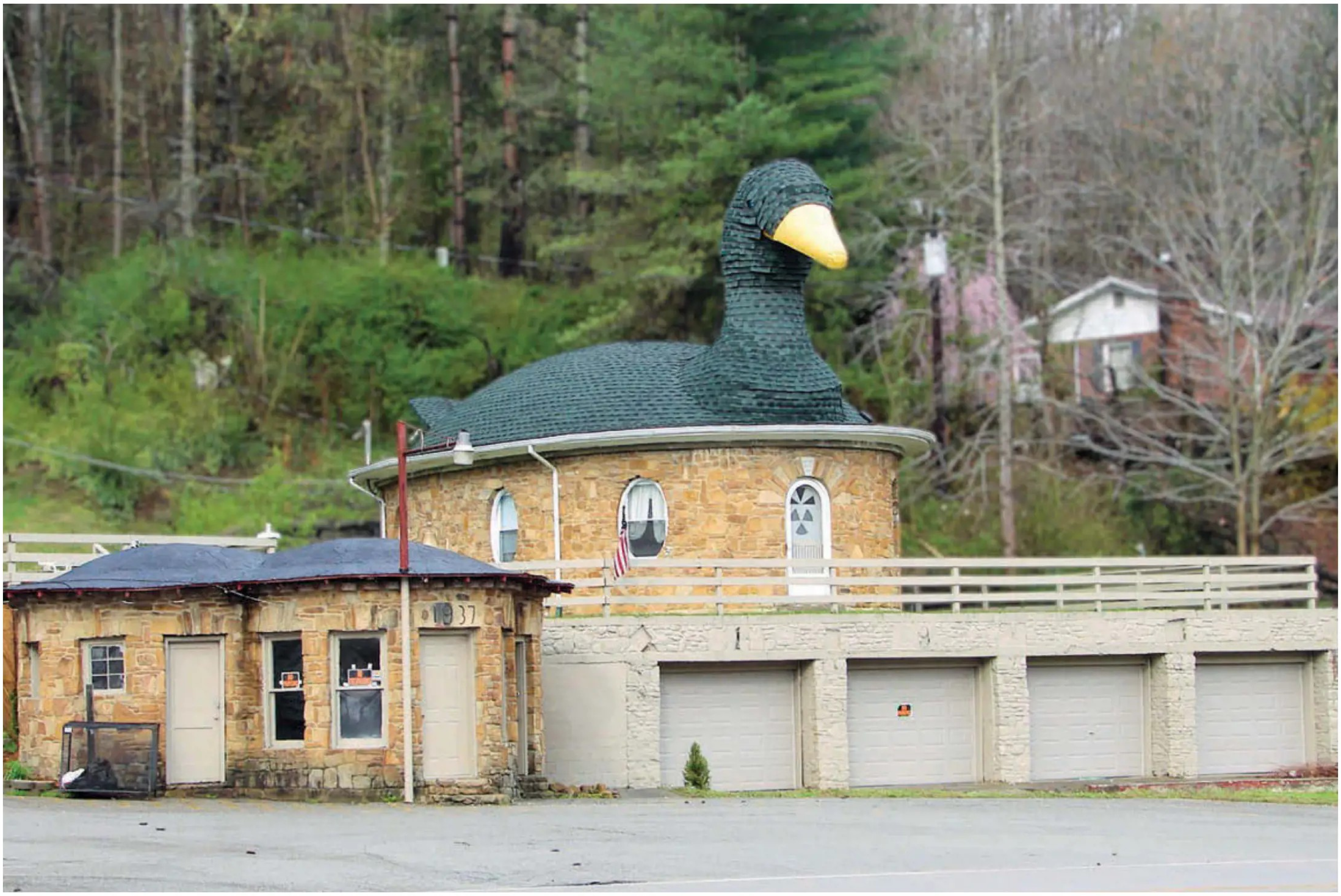
"Although intended as a family home, the Mother Goose House was also an advertising gimmick for Stacy's store, which sold groceries and ice cream, with gas pumps outside. It joined a developing lexicon of fantastic roadside structures built to look like giant dogs, elephants, ice cream cones—any number of items translated into building materials, and designed to catch the eye of passing motorists."

And it's still eye-catching today, with the restored Mother Goose proudly peering down on curious travelers. It remains one of Kentucky's quirkiest landmarks—one visitors can tour or maybe even call home for the night. But before you fly over, be sure to give them a honk first—hours of operation are limited.

MARK VERNARELLI is a Maryland-based author and a Department Editor at AMERICAN ROAD.



LOOSEY GOOSEY: [Above] Keith Miller works on installing the new head of the goose at the Mother Goose House in Hazard, Kentucky, Friday, August 27, 2021. The big bird's head had fallen off the previous spring, after more than eighty years in service.



Head detai courtesy Cindy Cornett Seigle. Large photo and window detail courtesy Cindy Cornett Seigle. Additional images courtesy the Mother Goose Inn.

Stevens Pass Greenway
Whidbey Scenic Isle Way
North Cascades Highway

THE CASCADE LOOP NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

4 Scenic Byways in one Ultimate Road Trip!

The Cascade Loop National Scenic Byway is a 440-mile loop through varied landscapes, from salt water to mountain peaks, through fragrant forests and shrub-steppe, past lush orchards and crisp hay fields and back to the Salish Sea – astounding beauty, community, and adventure await!

Request your FREE 80-page travel guide and start planning your next adventure!
www.CascadeLoop.com/Explore

Cumbres & Toltec
489

Discover Conejos County, Colorado

Explore. Experience. Enjoy.

Whether you're a sports enthusiast, history buff or just love a scenic drive, you'll find Conejos County at the top of your get-away wish list. Take a ride on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, or explore the back country with miles of fishable streams and creeks, hiking trails and abundant wildlife. Unique lodging choices are yours to call home. ***Come stay awhile.***

CONEJOS COUNTY TOURISM
ConejosVacation.com

AMERICAN ROAD

☎ Call
✍ Write
or visit our new subscription management system on Americanroadmagazine.com to:
Update your address.
Check your subscription.
Renew online.

Available on the App Store

Fuel Your Road Trip Dreams!
Call TODAY. 1-877-285-5434 x2
Americanroadmagazine.com

TAKE AN OREGON ROAD TRIP!

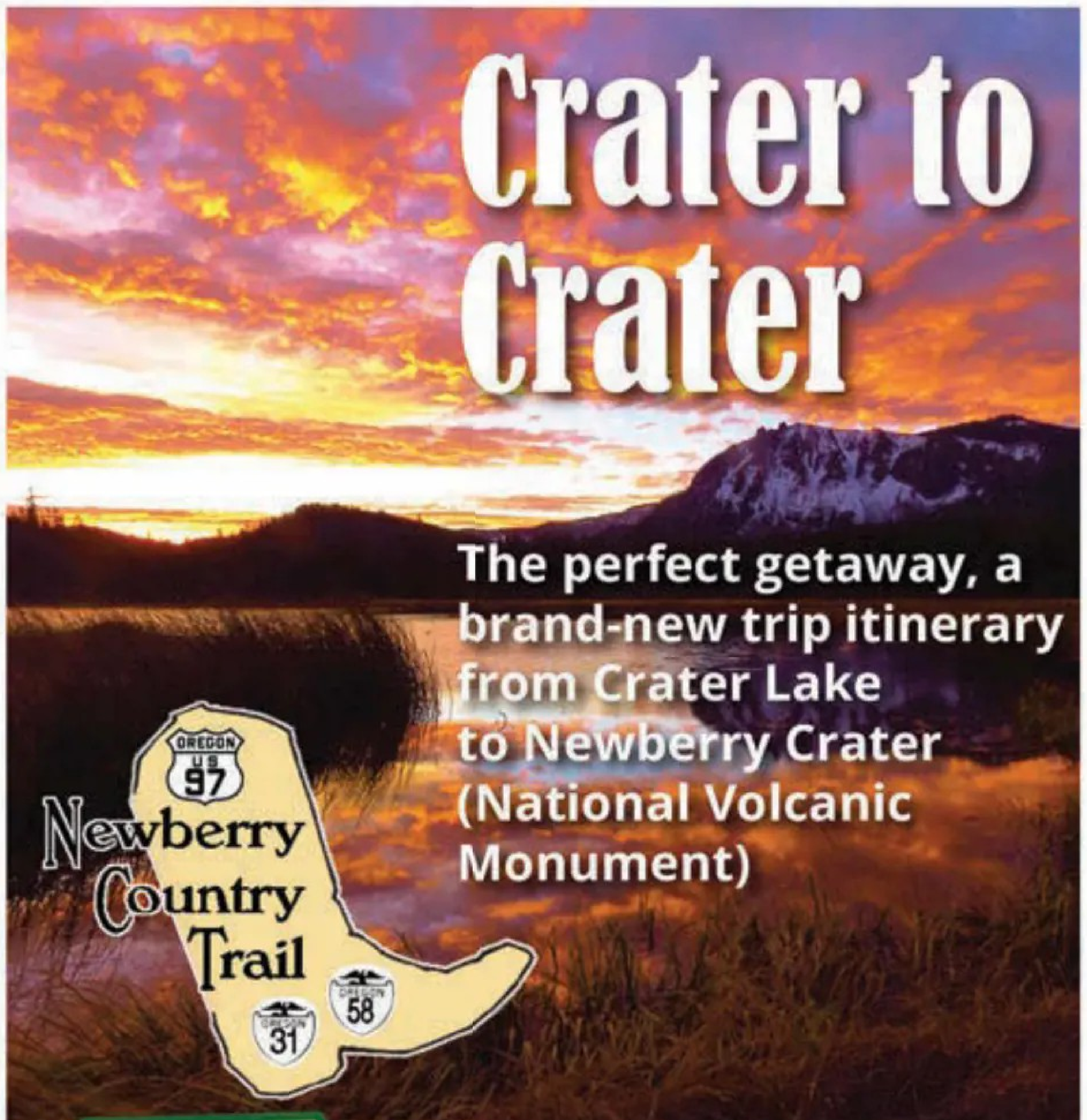
It may take a while to get here...

Our attractions are always open

Howling Dog Rock

Bandon
OREGON

1 Bandon.com



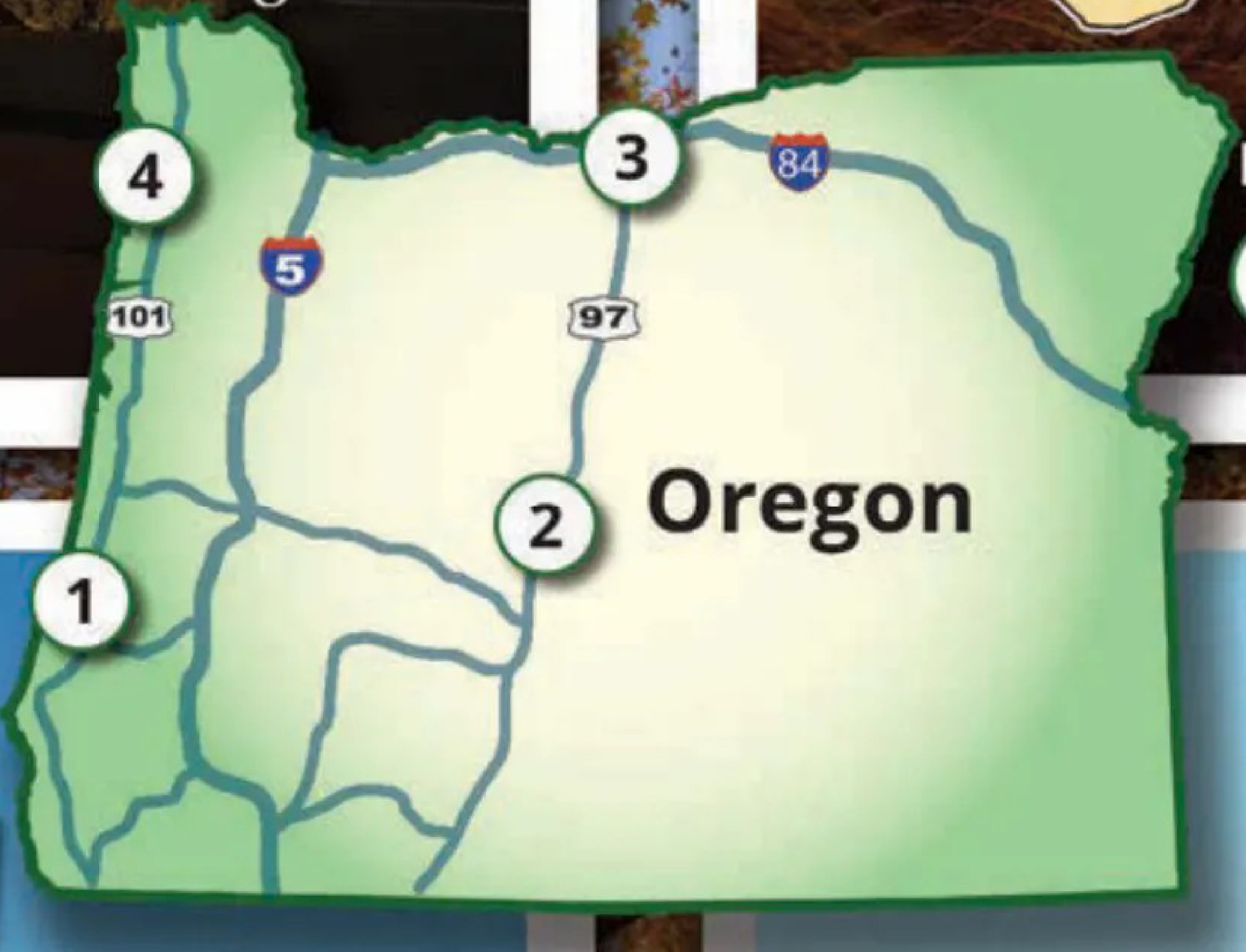
Crater to Crater

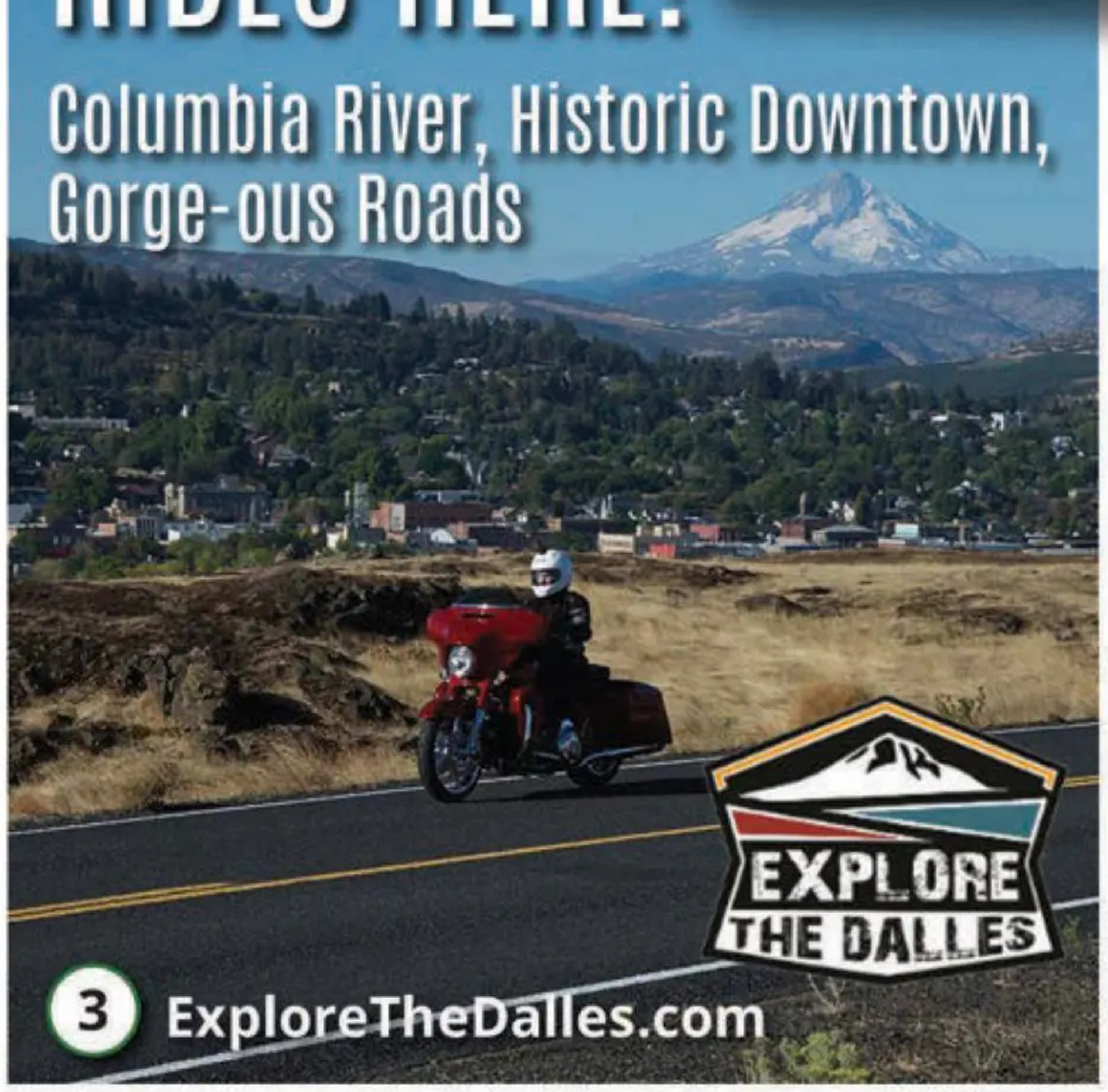
The perfect getaway, a brand-new trip itinerary from Crater Lake to Newberry Crater (National Volcanic Monument)

Newberry Country Trail

La Pine Chamber of Commerce

2 LaPine.org





FREEDOM RIDES HERE!

Columbia River, Historic Downtown, Gorge-ous Roads

EXPLORE THE DALLES

3 ExploreTheDalles.com

7 MILES OF SANDY BEACH

family-friendly, great food, lots to do

ROCKAWAY BEACH
OREGON
small town. big beach.

4 visitrockawaybeach.org

but you may not want to leave.

HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD

AMERICAN ROAD

FOLLOWING THE STARS WITH OUR CARS

• BY JESS WINFIELD

"Chinatown Wishing Well"

You see an article about Los Angeles' Chinatown in your favorite magazine's "Hollywood Boulevard" department, and you just know that the hack writer is gonna squeeze in that tired old trope: "It's Chinatown, Jake."

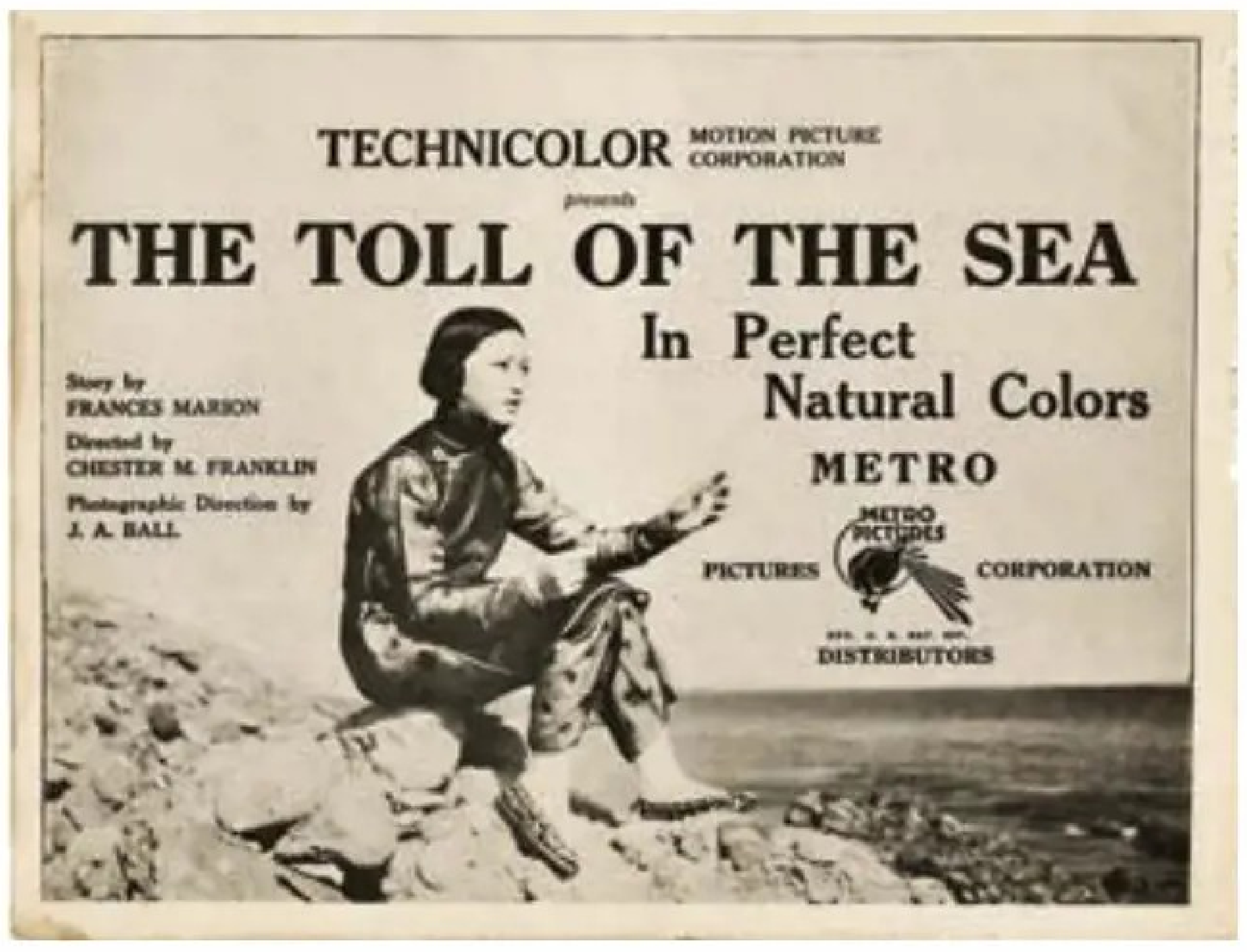
With that out of the way, let's talk about Anna May Wong.

Never heard of her? You're not alone. But she was and is a big deal. Born Wong Liu-Tsong in Los Angeles in 1905, her acting career spanned silent film, the early sound years, Hollywood's Golden Age, the Broadway and West End London stages, radio, and television. She worked with—and often upstaged—the likes of Douglas Fairbanks, Lon Chaney, and Marlene Dietrich. As an early adopter of the flapper look in the 1920s, she became an international fashion icon. Dissatisfied with the stereotypical roles she was offered in Hollywood, she expatriated to London, where she starred in five films and, in 1929, made her stage debut in *The Circle of Chalk*, opposite a young Laurence Olivier. And in 1938—at the height of her international stardom—she planted a willow tree at the opening ceremony of Los Angeles New Chinatown Plaza, overhanging its central, whimsical water feature: the Chinese Wishing Well.

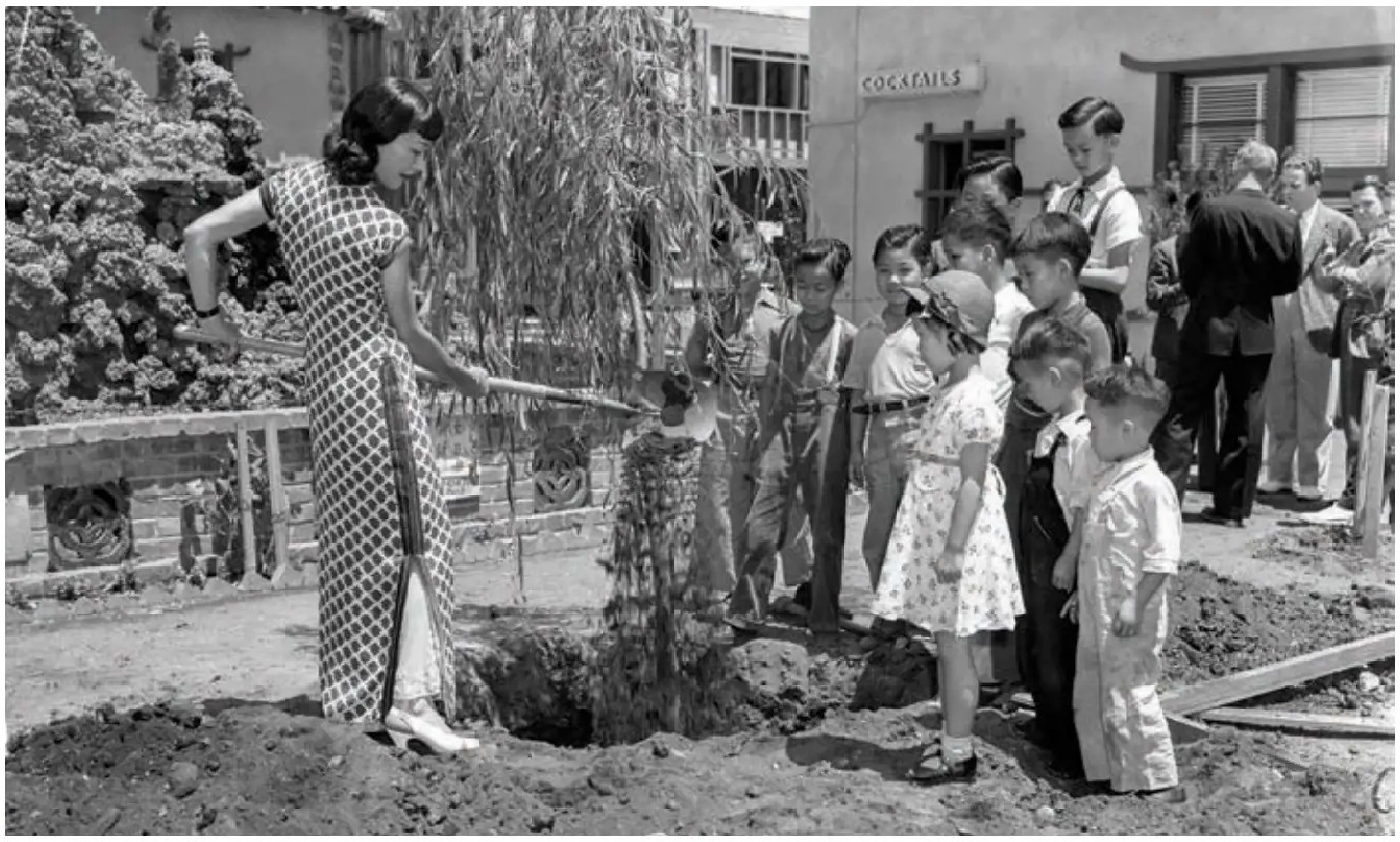
Every AI bot will tell you that Wong was born on Flower Street, "a block north of Chinatown." We thought that discredited AI entirely—any Angeleno can tell you that Flower Street is southwest of Chinatown. Then we realized that the reference is to *Old* Chinatown: a fifteen-street neighborhood that included a Chinese opera, three temples, and a hefty number of saloons, brothels, and opium dens. It was razed in 1928 to make room for the architectural treasure that is LA's Union Station.

In the 1930s, a group led by Peter Soo Woo Sr. began development of "New Chinatown" on nearby land that had a history of hosting ethnic enclaves—first a "Sonoratown" of Mexican and Californio workers, and more recently a "Little Italy" of mostly Sicilian immigrants. At the dignitary-studded dedication, Wong wielded a shovel to plant her willow tree. (Wong's Chinese name means "Yellow Willow Frost.) That tree is today little more than a stump, but the well lives on—sort of.

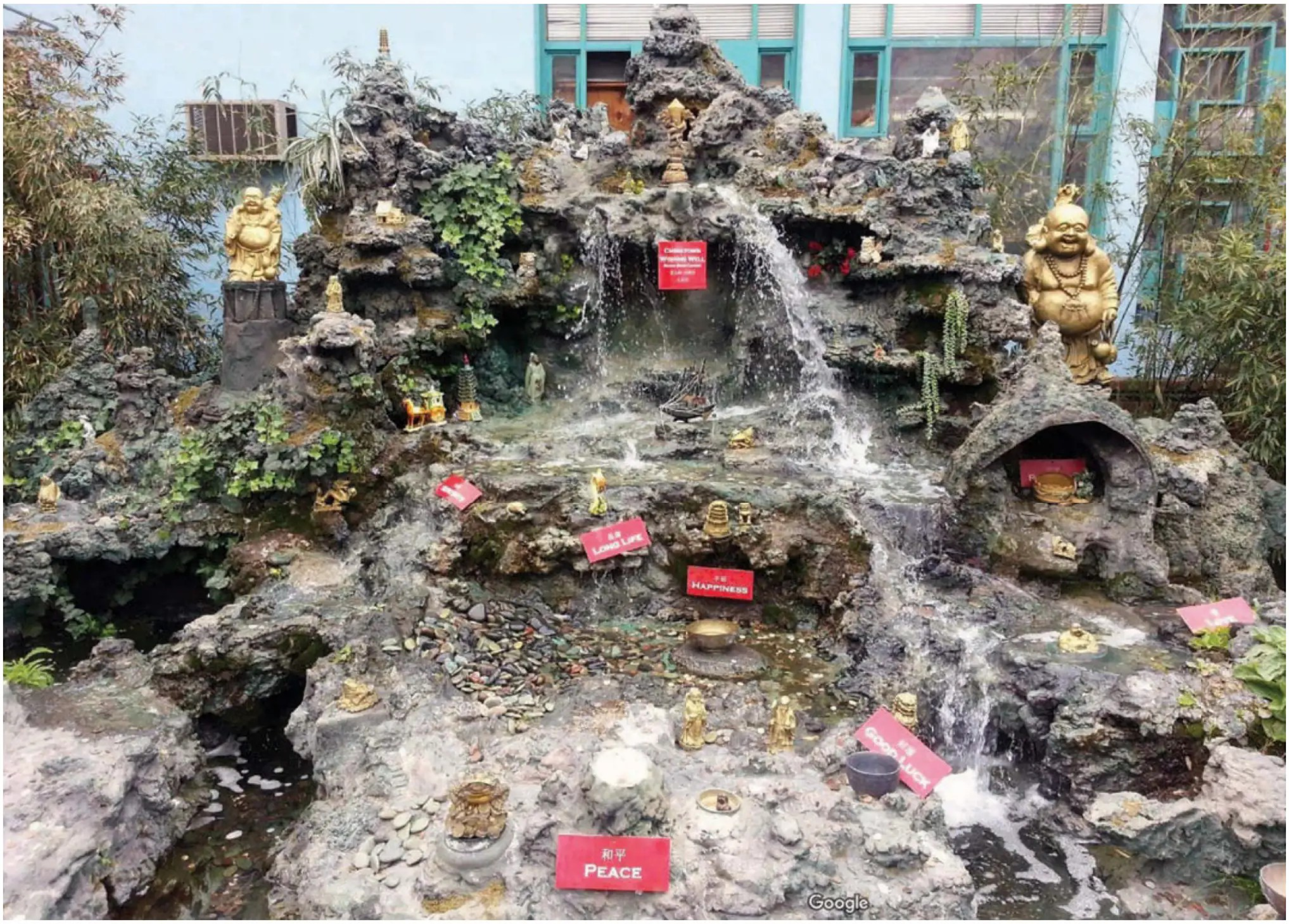
CHINATOWN WISHING WELL is located at 456 Gin Ling Way, Los Angeles, California 90012 in the Chinatown Central Plaza. For more information, phone (213) 628-4841.


TECHNICOLOR MOTION PICTURE CORPORATION
presents
THE TOLL OF THE SEA
In Perfect Natural Colors
METRO
Story by FRANCES MARION
Directed by CHESTER M. FRANKLIN
Photographic Direction by J. A. BALL
METRO PICTURES CORPORATION
DISTRIBUTORS

EAST MEETS WEST: [Below] Anna May Wong became Hollywood's first Chinese-American star when she appeared in *The Toll of the Sea* (1922). [Right] Her native name meant "Yellow Willow Frost," so in 1938, she was invited to plant the first willow tree in Chinatown's friendship grove. The stump remains.



Historical photo courtesy UCLA Library.



PITCH PERFECT: [Left] Figures of Buddha and other good luck charms decorate the Chinatown Wishing Well. [Right] Visitors with coins are encouraged to aim for small bowls that promise perks such a Love, Peace, and Long Life.

Sculpted by Los Angeles artist Liu Wong Kay, it is a representation of one of China's own most popular tourist attractions: The Seven Star Cave, a stunning geological formation outside the city of Guilin in China's southern Guangxi province. A kilometer and a half long, filled with a multitude of stalactites and stalagmites accented with colorful artificial lighting, and capable of accommodating up to ten thousand visitors at once (put that in your one-thousand-capacity teapot and steep it, Carlsbad!)—the caves have been a tourist destination since at least as far back as the Sui and Tang dynasties (581–907 AD). The Wishing Well is a fascinating homage to the Cave and a pastiche of Chinese culture, featuring miniature temples and pagodas on its peaks, sages, monks, and gold- and silver-colored Buddhas tucked into its crevices. Small signs encourage visitors to toss coins into specific wish-related bowls—Romance, Happiness, Long Life, Lotto Win. According to Jody Hummer, a film location manager and Chinatown expert, "It's been said that throwing a coin with your back turned will grant a hidden wish that only your soul can see." Whoa.

Unfortunately, the concrete and rebar structure has not withstood the test of time as well as the massive cave on which it's based. A waterfall, installed in 2004, caused significant erosion of the sculpture's texture and decay of the iron rebar. It's been vandalized numerous times over the years, most recently during the COVID-19 pandemic. It's been out of operation since. Supporters like Hummer are collecting funds to restore the well to its "original beauty and honor" with new lighting, paint, and "statuary," along with a "protective gate to close at night."

Although the currently-dry well might be deferred to a lower spot on your travel bucket list, the rabbit hole that is the study of Anna May Wong's life and work is a trip that can be taken any time. Third generation Chinese-American, fashion icon, travel writer, prototypical "Dragon Lady," war activist in support of China against Imperial Japan in WWII, the first Asian American woman to star in a television series (*The Gallery of Madame Liu-Tsong*, 1951), she is an underappreciated legend of Hollywood's Golden Age.

JESS WINFIELD is a Los Angeles-based novelist and playwright and a Senior Editor at AMERICAN ROAD.

Advertorial

FALL WINE TASTING IN OREGON'S Willamette Valley

The fall months in Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory create an ideal backdrop for wine tasting with friends and family. The season's beautiful hues, coupled with the robust aromas of award winning wines, make for a truly blissful experience at any tasting room.

Many of Mt. Hood Territory's wineries and vineyards are located in the north Willamette Valley, Oregon's best known wine region, and provide an escape from the crowds of other wine regions for a more intimate experience. These tasting rooms are often staffed by one of the owners or the winemaker — and in most cases, they are one and the same.

This is your invitation to relax and enjoy the changing fall colors over a glass of wine.

MT. HOOD TERRITORY WINE TRAIL

The perfect way to experience this wine region is with the new Mt. Hood Territory Wine Trail. This free mobile passport guides you through The Territory's boutique, family owned wineries. An in-pass map makes it easy to find a winery near your location. Use the pass to "check in" at each participating stop to earn points toward locally-made prizes. Some wineries even offer special tasting room deals available only to Wine Trail users that you can redeem for even more points. And as if that weren't enough, each check-in and offer redemption counts as an entry toward our Wine Trail grand prize – a 2-night stay on Mt. Hood. The Wine Trail is your way to earn fantastic prizes while supporting local winemakers.

THANKSGIVING WINE WEEKEND

Thanksgiving is when families embrace traditions they look forward to every year, and Mt. Hood Territory wineries have their own custom of extending their tasting room hours the weekend after Thanksgiving. Many offer limited releases, special reserve tastings, discounts on pours or flights and cellar tours to celebrate the extended weekend. So come enjoy amazing views, firepits and heat lamps to keep you warm and cozy and discover a new favorite wine.

WHEN YOU VISIT

Fall isn't just about the wine. The valley farms are filled with harvest festivals, corn mazes and pumpkins. The charming towns and main streets offer near-limitless options for farm-to-table dining, lodging and local boutique shopping. With cooler temperatures and so much to explore, there is no better time to visit Mt. Hood Territory than in the fall.

▲ *Visitors to King's Raven Winery taste one of the winery's aging vintages with the winemaker.*

▲ *Enjoy new wines around the fireplace at Tumwater Vineyard.*

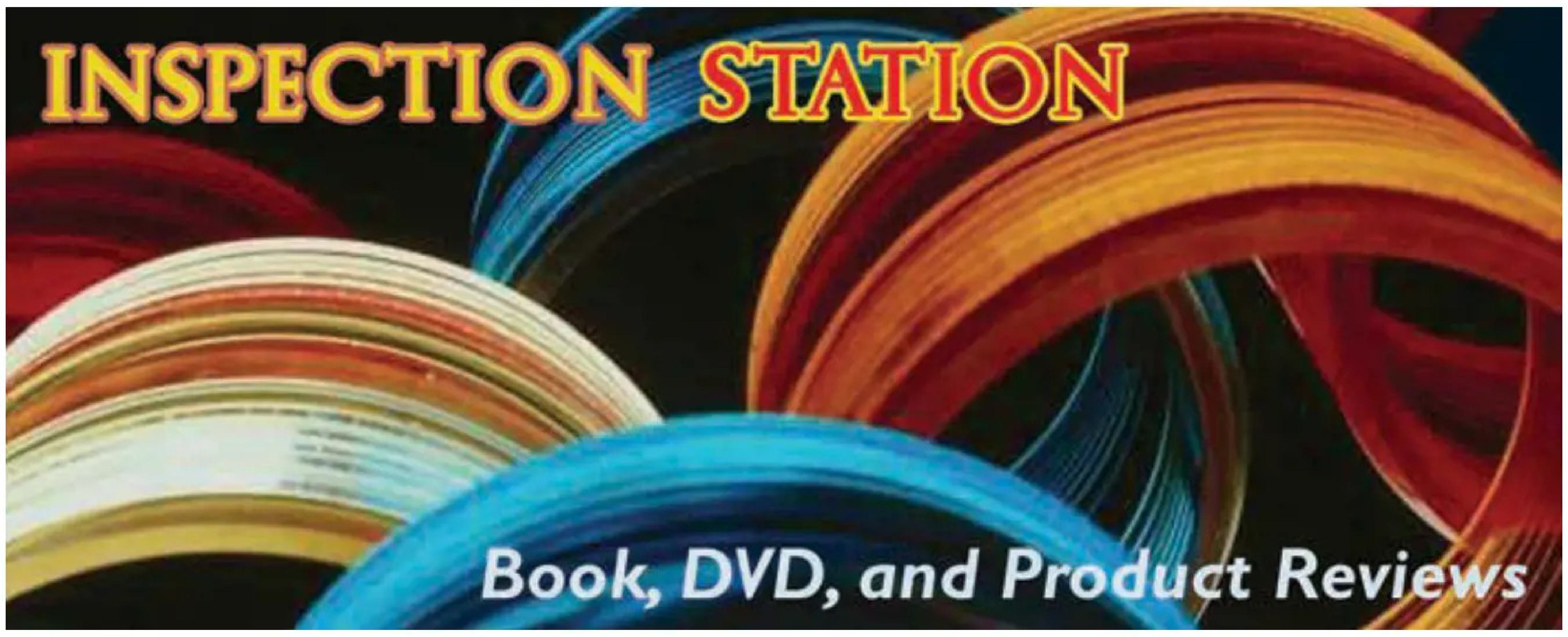
Celebrate Cellar Season

Can't make it here this fall? Visit in the winter! Winter is an important time in the winemaking process. The hustle and bustle of the fall crush is over, the year's wines have been tucked into their barrels and vintners finally have a chance to slow down. Called Cellar Season, this time of year provides the perfect opportunity to visit the tasting rooms throughout the Mt. Hood Territory region.

As wines age quietly in barrel rooms, this less busy season allows guests to spend a little more time with winemakers learning about their processes and passion for their craft. Guests enjoy cozy vibes while relaxing by the glow of heaters and crackling fireplaces. Join us and embrace the experience of this special winter season.

PLAN A WINE ADVENTURE
omht.us/wineries

OREGON'S MT. HOOD TERRITORY


INSPECTION STATION
Book, DVD, and Product Reviews

Contributors: Matthew Anderson, Jeff Nazzaro, Chesley Oxendine, and Mark Vernarelli.

Dreamegg Portable White Noise Machine

DREAMEGG
Twenty-one tracks
USB Connector type, 4 × 3.74 × 1.8 inches
$33.99

One odd effect of frequent travel is growing accustomed to the noises of the world—trucks barreling down highways, wildlife chittering in the trees, housekeeping carts rattling past the door, or voices carrying through thin walls. Trying to sleep in a cabin, lodge, or motel room in an unfamiliar soundscape can be an unrestful undertaking.

White noise machines can help create a sense of comfortable normalcy. They work by providing a constant hum or hiss that drowns out the sounds of discordant backgrounds. To this end, Dreamegg Portable White Noise Machine is invaluable for generating a relaxing sleep environment anywhere. The device is, as the name implies, about the size of an egg but features a powerful speaker that fills the space with one of twenty-one neutral tracks that encourage relaxation and calm.

Its compact size makes it easy to slip into a bag and take anywhere. The battery life also impresses, lasting multiple days on a single USB-C charge. For travelers who sleep lightly or need soothing sounds to rest, this may be the most important investment one could make for a little quiet comfort on the road.

—CHESLEY OXENDINE

A Place Called Yellowstone: The Epic History of the World's First National Park

By Randall K. Wilson
COUNTERPOINT
Hardcover, 6.36 × 1.38 × 9.26 inches
432 pages, $34.00

A Place Called Yellowstone opens with a dramatic retelling of a 1959 earthquake—the strongest ever recorded in the Rocky Mountains, felt as far away as Seattle. The quake interrupted the park's annual beauty pageant, hurled people from their sleeping bags, collapsed parts of the Old Faithful Inn, and triggered the simultaneous eruption of many long-dormant springs.

This gripping scene is a fitting introduction to the largest and most powerful volcanic center in North America. Anyone who has visited Yellowstone National Park knows that it's a wild and uncanny place, with its bubbling paint pots, sulfur-scented pools, and surreal waterfalls gushing over gleaming travertine terraces. Randall K. Wilson, a professor of environmental studies, describes these landscapes in detail.

The book offers more than vivid descriptions. It also sketches memorable characters from Yellowstone's past—men such as John Colter, a former Lewis and Clark Expedition member who ran naked through the woods to escape pursuers before hiding in a beaver lodge. His adventure was just one of many played out on this powerful land.

Yellowstone's journey to becoming a national park is as colorful as its painted pools. Wilson deftly guides readers through the political and physical battles and shenanigans that produced the Yellowstone we know today, with its uneasy balance of elk, bison, wolves, and people.

A rollicking read, *A Place Called Yellowstone* reveals the true wildness of this American treasure.

—MATTHEW ANDERSON

Historic Kansas Roadsides

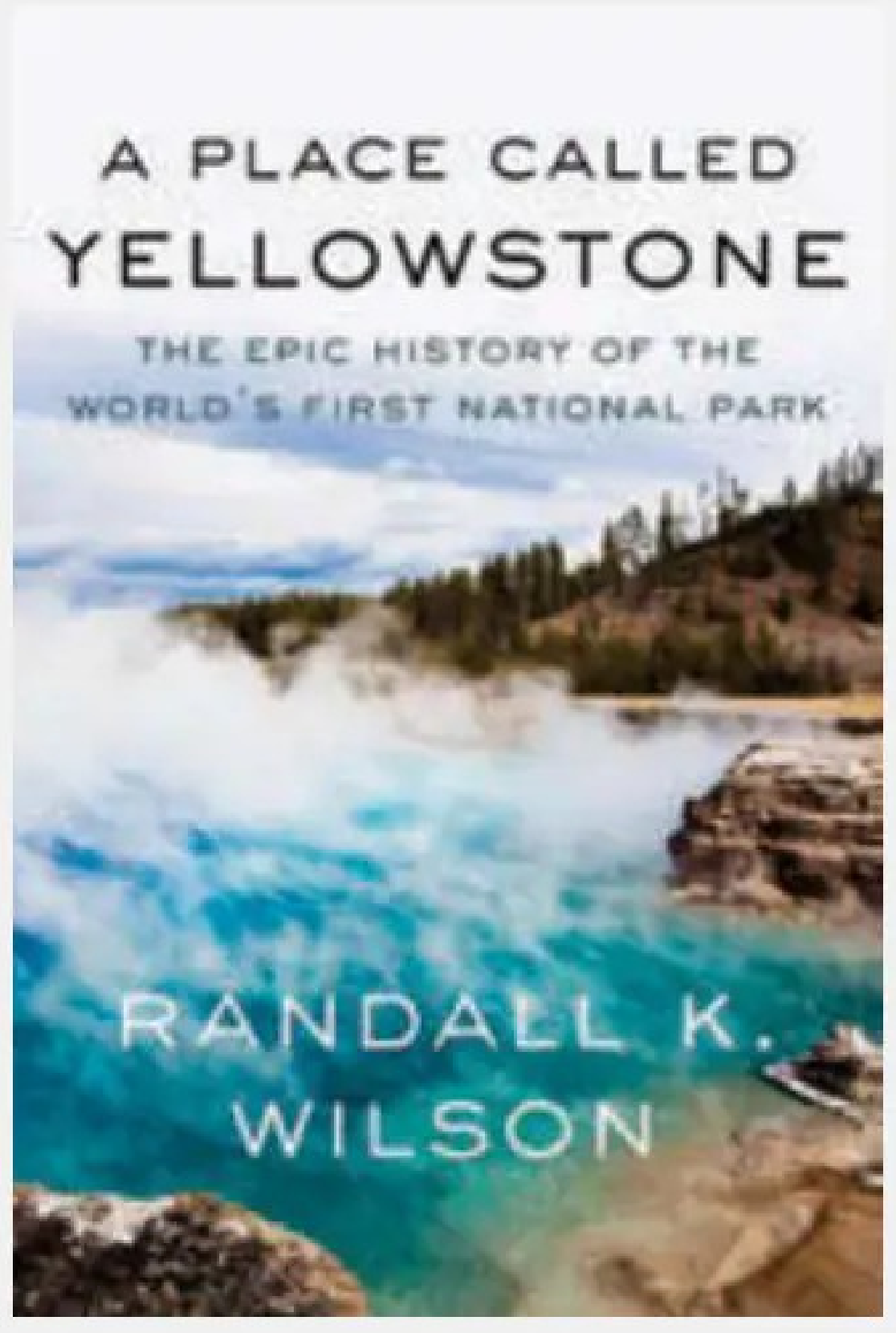
By Roxie Yonkey
REEDY PRESS
Hardcover, 9 × 0.7 × 6 inches
192 pages, $27.00

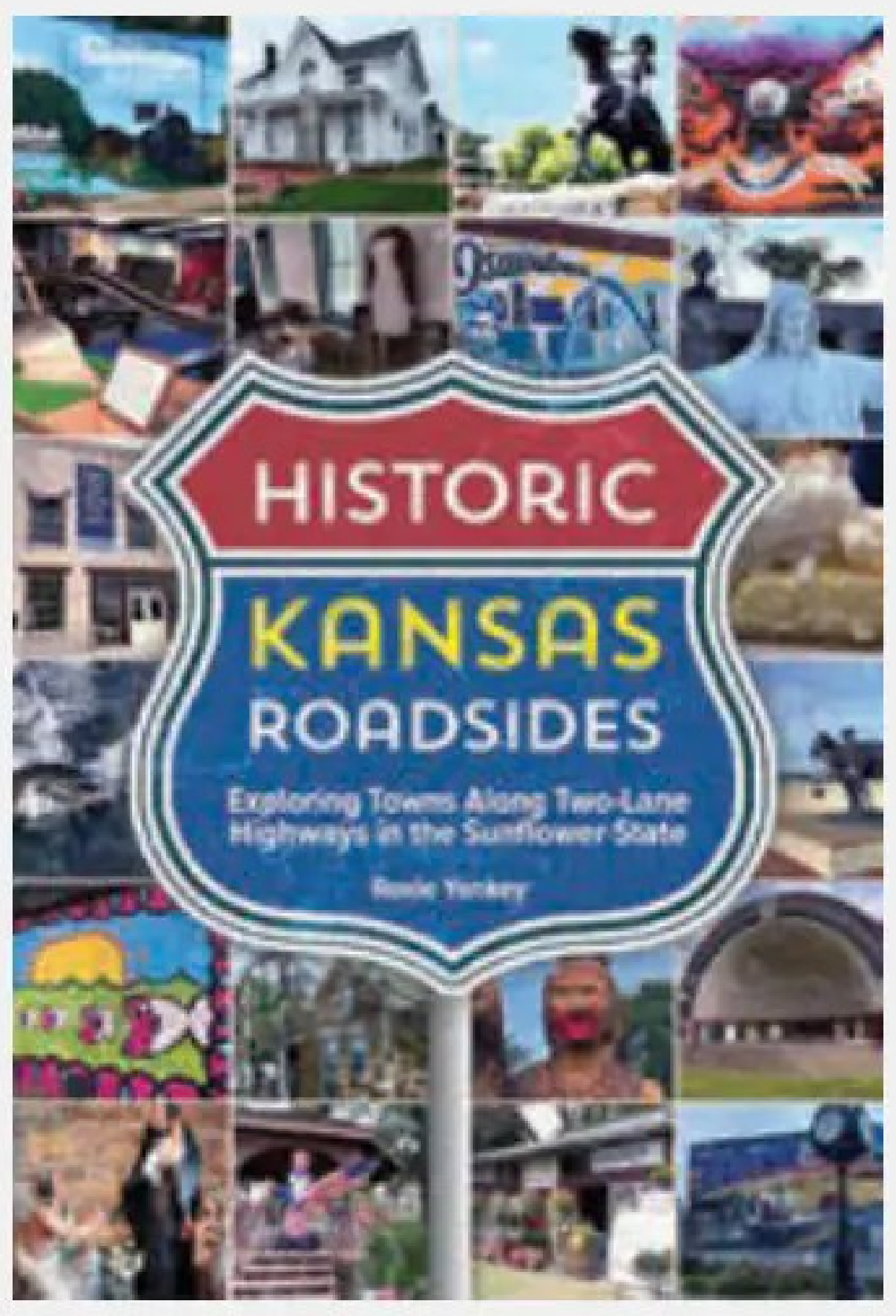
What's not to like about a book celebrating towns along two-lane roads? Author Roxie Yonkey takes readers through the Sunflower State, offering engaging stories of no fewer than eighty places in *Historic Kansas Roadsides: Exploring Towns Along Two-Lane Highways in the Sunflower State*.

Yonkey treats each town equally—Wichita, the state's biggest city, receives the same attention as Volland, a ghost town. Each location is allotted no more than two pages but includes recommendations on where to eat, stay, and explore.

The Wild West chapter, devoted to Garden City, Cimarron, and Dodge City, includes fascinating details—like how Dodge City once shipped over a million bison hides annually. You'll also learn that Kansas isn't entirely flat. (In fact, its northeast corner is so hilly, it's known as Little Switzerland.) Folks with Scottish roots may appreciate Glasco, with a downtown listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Blame the (mis)spelling on the postmaster's error—and the railroad's insistence on keeping the botched name.

Speaking of railroads, the book highlights the Santa Fe and Rock Island lines'




HISTORIC
KANSAS
ROADSIDES
Exploring Towns Along Two-Lane Highways in the Sunflower State
Roxie Yonkey

crucial role in Kansas history, as well as Kansan contributions to aviation.

From the great grasshopper plague of the late 1800s to the evolution—and near-disappearance—of Kansas towns big and small, Yonkey's passion for her beloved Kansas shines through, making her book an easy, enjoyable read.

—MARK VERNARELLI

Lincoln Highway: Discover America's Forgotten Main Street

By Risa August
PUBLICATIONS INTERNATIONAL LTD
Hardcover, 9.88 × 0.75 × 11.38 inches
144 pages, $19.98

This colorful book will send a lover of the American road into full-throttle nostalgia mode. Heavy on vintage and modern day photos and well-written historical text, the book traces America's first attempt at building a transcontinental highway—from Carl Fisher's idea to today's current alignment—through thirteen states.

The book describes the nineteen-vehicle convoy of "Trail Blazers" that set out on what would become 3,389 miles of highway in 1913, and reminds the reader that, despite its length, the Lincoln never did have a single-digit federal designation.

Readers will be surprised to learn that no less than US President Woodrow Wilson was rebuffed in his effort to have the route pass through the nation's capital, and that fierce disagreement first led to a circuitous loop around Denver, and then later saw the out-of-the-way detour removed altogether.

From the route's Times Square beginning, to a midpoint at Kearney, Nebraska, through the six-foot-deep Bonneville Salt Flats of Utah, to the simple highway marker and plaque at the Lincoln's western terminus in San Francisco, this enjoyable book takes its readers on quite a journey. Reading that the initial convoy took thirty-four days to travel the Lincoln's length will make a road trip-ready traveler less likely to complain about today's highways. And reading that Henry Ford loved the idea of the highway but refused to help pay for it because he thought the government should will draw laughs from readers weary from listening to current-day bickering over funding issues.

—MARK VERNARELLI

The Highways and Byways of Alabama

By Phillip Kendrick
INDEPENDENTLY PUBLISHED
Hardcover, 8.49 × 0.82 × 11.24 inches
267 pages, $48.00

As straightforward as its prose, *The Highways and Byways of Alabama* by Phillip Kendrick delivers a detailed account of what it's like to drive all 3,852 miles of the eighteen US Highways crisscrossing Alabama, leaving readers with a newfound appreciation for the Yellowhammer State and an insider's look into road-tripping without superslabs. Following brief histories of the automobile and the evolution of American roadways, lifelong Alabamian Kendrick offers insights on each highway, including driving conditions, points of interest, and rest stops—five total by his count. One—along US 331—was built at the request of Lurleen Wallace, wife of Governor George Wallace, who thought it'd make "an excellent place for a break on the way to the beach from Montgomery."

Kendrick delivers other surprising details. He laments the logging trucks, traffic jams, and long stretches with no passing lanes but also marvels at the state's scenic beauty (US 98 along Mobile Bay stands out), rich agricultural landscape, and layered history.

There's even a touch of wry humor in his 'Bama-centric narrative—like when he dubs US 80 the "Highway to Nowhere" for its neglected roadbed, decaying housing, and nondescript scenery, seemingly existing only to "make a connection between Mississippi and Georgia." Here at *American Road*, we disagree with that assessment, of course, and think US 80 in Alabama a crackerjack, but we do agree it could use more rest stops.

—JEFF NAZZARO

JisuLife Handheld Portable Turbo Fan

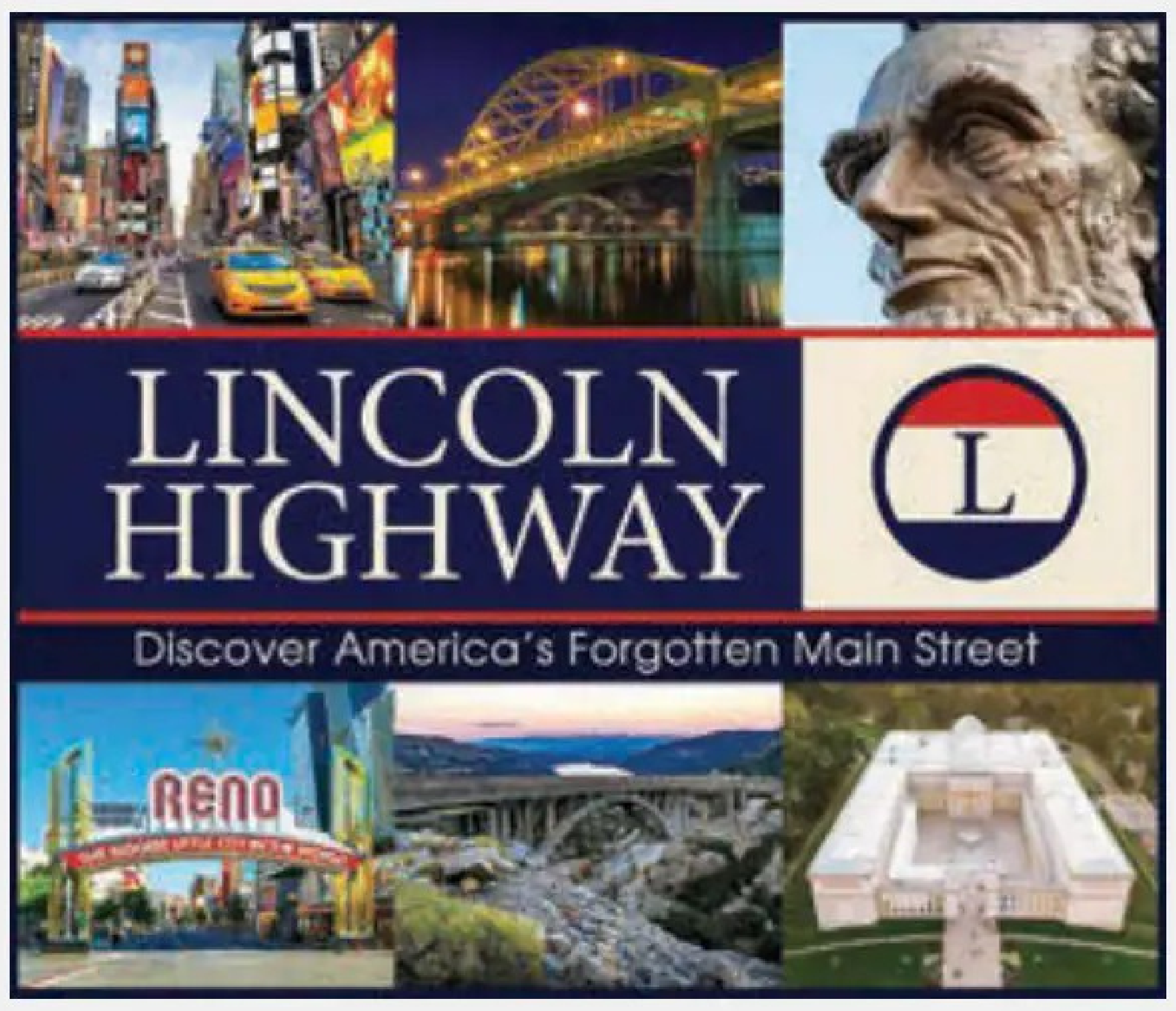
JISULIFE
Battery powered, five speeds turbo air duct
40 dB, 1.7 × 3.2 × 6.2 inches
$21.99

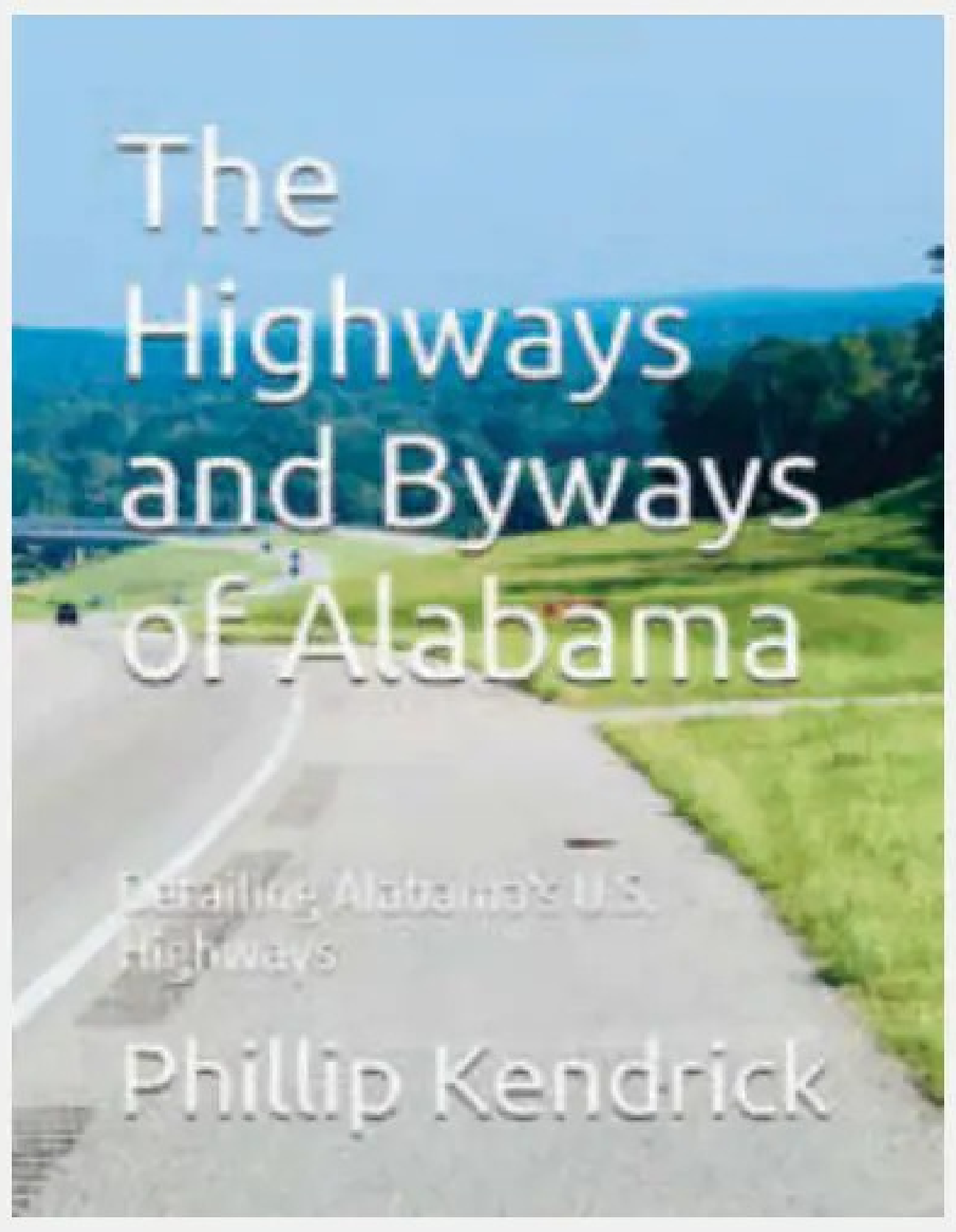
Think handheld fans went out of style with the final fade out of *Gone with the Wind*? Think again. Long popular in Asian countries, personal fans are everywhere lately and point to a rise in both temps and fast fashion. Whether a hike is too warm and windless or a seat on an airplane is cramped and sweltering, having a portable, battery-operated fan at your disposal can mean the difference between a tolerable trip somewhere and a miserable one.

The JisuLife Handheld Portable Turbo Fan is one of the best we've tested—a model that gets the job done without breaking a budget in the process. The fan can fit neatly into a bag or purse, and feels solidly built for the price. The closed-in design on the face means there is little risk of anything getting caught in the spinning blades. And did we mention its airflow? This little baby will blow the sweats away.

The fan also features a relatively quick charging time over any USB connection (three hours or so) and lasts for around sixteen hours of active cooling. That's enough time to drive across the stifling southern regions of Louisiana and back again, easily.

—CHESLEY OXENDINE




The Highways and Byways of Alabama
Detailing Alabama's U.S. Highways
Phillip Kendrick

NEVADA BACK COUNTRY
WATERING HOLES

No doubt Nevada's urban cities dish up some lavish sips and eats. But, if you're craving something a little less refined and less confined, here's a list of some back country establishments that are sure to deliver that "REAL NEVADA" worth making a weekend trip for!

WINERIES, DISTILLERY & MORE • PAHRUMP, NV
With several local vineyards, tasting rooms, rum distillery, and even a cider producer, Pahrump is fast becoming a hub to please every drinker's palate.

TONOPAH BREWING COMPANY • TONOPAH, NV
"Proudly Tonopah", the ownership have deep roots here. Enjoy a pint of their refreshing locally brewed beers along with some delicious pub grub.

HAPPY BURRO CHILI & BEER • BEATTY, NV
Set in the heart of Beatty, this saloon has a true Old West Saloon front. Happy Burro offers award-winning chili and plenty of outdoor patio seating.

OVERLAND HOTEL & SALOON • PIOCHE, NV
Known for its spirits (and we're not just talking about the booze) it's the perfect place to find a local storyteller while having a cold drink.

Learn more about these back country watering holes, or plan your next adventure at
NevadaSilverTrails.com

NEVADA SILVER Trails

- ATV / Off-Roading
- Mountain Biking
- Bird / Wildlife Viewing
- Boating / Fishing
- Camping / RV Hook-up
- Climbing / Bouldering
- Ghost Town Exploring
- Golfing
- Hiking
- UFO Spotting
- History & Petroglyphs
- Diners & Saloons

TRAVEL NEVADA
TRAVELNEVADA.COM

Rich Color. Bold Stories.
Loneliest Road in America
NV HWY 50

Frey Ranch Farmers & Distillers, Fallon, Nevada

Explore all the colorful communities along The Loneliest Road in America, Nevada's Highway 50.

LONELIESTROAD.US

WENDOVER WILL

WELCOMING VISITORS TO WEST WENDOVER FOR OVER 73 YEARS

★ *Visit the Wendover Will Gift Shop at wendoverwill.com* ★

"Wendover Will"®
Welcomes You To
WEST WENDOVER
NEVADA
RAINBOW CONCERT HALL

Gaming · Dining · Golf · Recreation · Historic Sites

Top Name Entertainment at Peppermill Concert Hall

Bonneville Salt Flats and More!

Just 90 minutes west of Salt Lake City on I-80

866-299-2489
westwendovercity.com

TRAVEL NEVADA

We Love "Selfies" with Wendover Will!

Send your photo with your name, age and where you're from to: **wendoverwill@westwendovercity.com** images posted* on **westwendovercity.com/wendoverwill** with a pin on the world map.

* *Please submit only tastefully done images. No image deemed to be offensive will be posted.*

HISTORIC WENDOVER AIRFIELD MUSEUM
Located at the Wendover Airport.
For more information, visit
wendoverairbase.com or cal 435-665-7724

Scan QR code for more information

YouTube
See us - search West Wendover

RESORTS AT WENDOVER
RAINBOW HOTEL • CASINO
Peppermill HOTEL • CASINO
MONTEGO BAY CASINO • RESORT
wendoverfun.com 1-800-537-0207

MAVERICK GAMING
WENDOVER NUGGET HOTEL & CASINO
RED GARTER
maverickgaming.com 800-936-3683

TOANA VISTA GOLF CLUB
775-664-4300

THE EXTRA MILE

GOING THE DISTANCE TO VISIT DESTINATIONS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

• BY **MATTHEW ANDERSON**

"Abilene's Storybook Garden"

"She was in a class by herself. It is not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer. Charlotte was both."

(Apologies for the tears those sentences might evoke.)

Wilbur's buddy Charlotte was, indeed, a true friend, as fans of the book *Charlotte's Web* can attest. And E. B. White, the beloved author who penned these words, was, like the altruistic spider he created, a good writer.

But deft with the written word though he was, White isn't the only person responsible for bringing Charlotte and Wilbur—or Stuart Little, for that matter, and many other characters—to life.

Garth Williams was a 33-year-old cartoonist when he was tapped to illustrate *Stuart Little* in 1945. He would go on to illustrate *Charlotte's Web* in 1952 and many other children's books in the decades that followed.

The New Yorker once dubbed Williams "Illustrator of the American Childhood." His wife, Letty, calls him "Illustrator of the Century."

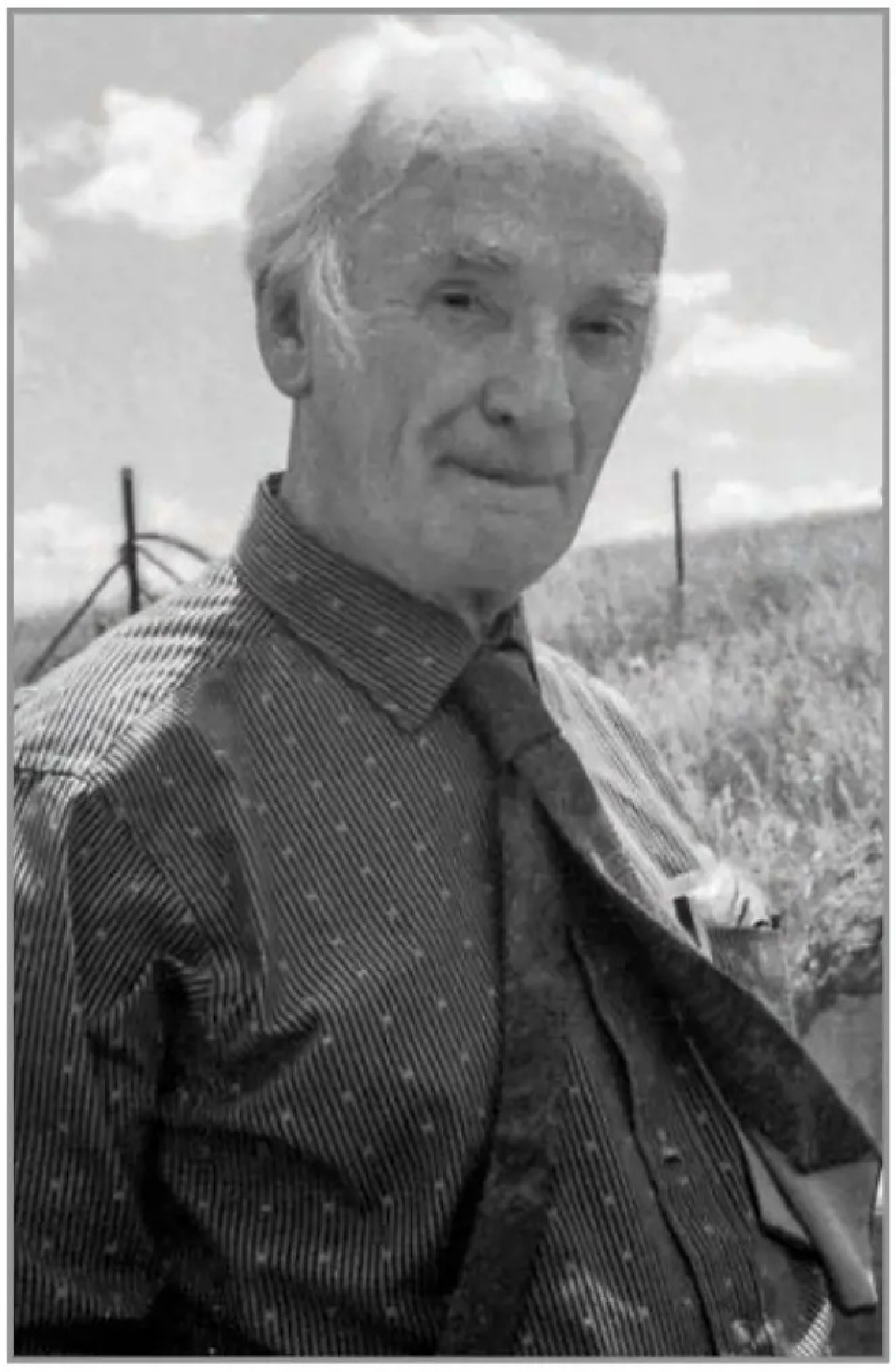
"It's not because he was my husband, and it's not because we were married twenty-two years," she says by phone from her home in Miami. "He was the best illustrator in the world."

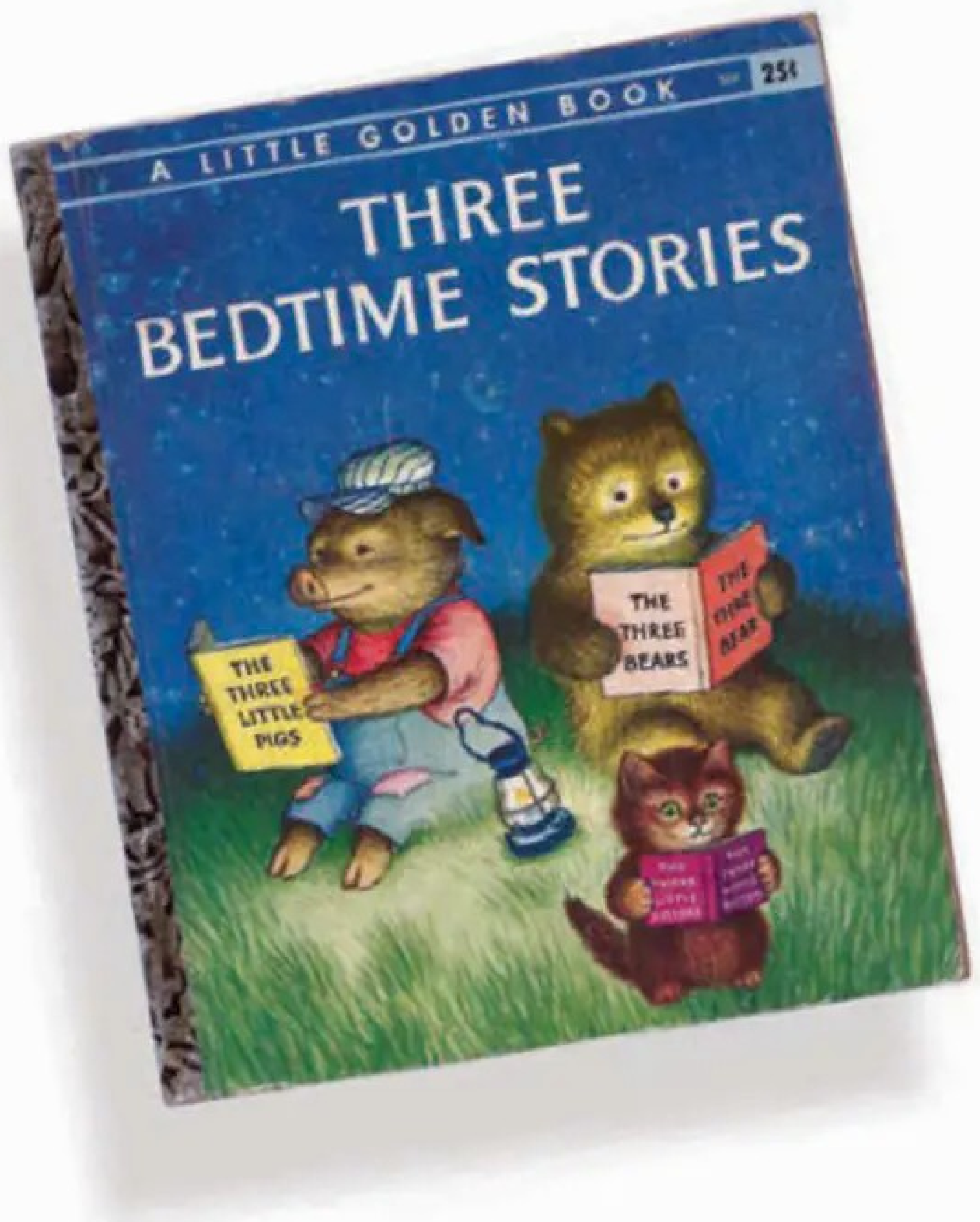
She is far from the only one who recognizes her husband's genius. On the southeast lawn of the civic center in Abilene, Texas, at the corner of Sixth and Pine, stand stunning sculptural recreations by artist Steve Neves of Williams' work: *Three Bedtime Stories*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Stuart Little*, *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild*, and *How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?* among them.

The Adamson-Spalding Storybook Garden, unveiled in 2017 as part of a larger homage to children's literature in Abilene, is located at 1008–1098 North Sixth Street, a few blocks north of US Highway 80, which straddles the railroad tracks bisecting the city. Driving by on Sixth, one can see the three bronze pigs in their sturdy brick house, the frustrated wolf peering through a window. Closer to the convention center's entrance, three kittens cry while their mother, paws on the hips of her flowing pink apron, upbraids them: "What! Lost your mittens, You naughty kittens? Then you shall have no pie." Within mother cat's eyesight, Stuart Little uses a wooden ice cream spoon to paddle his precious canoe, "Summer Memories."

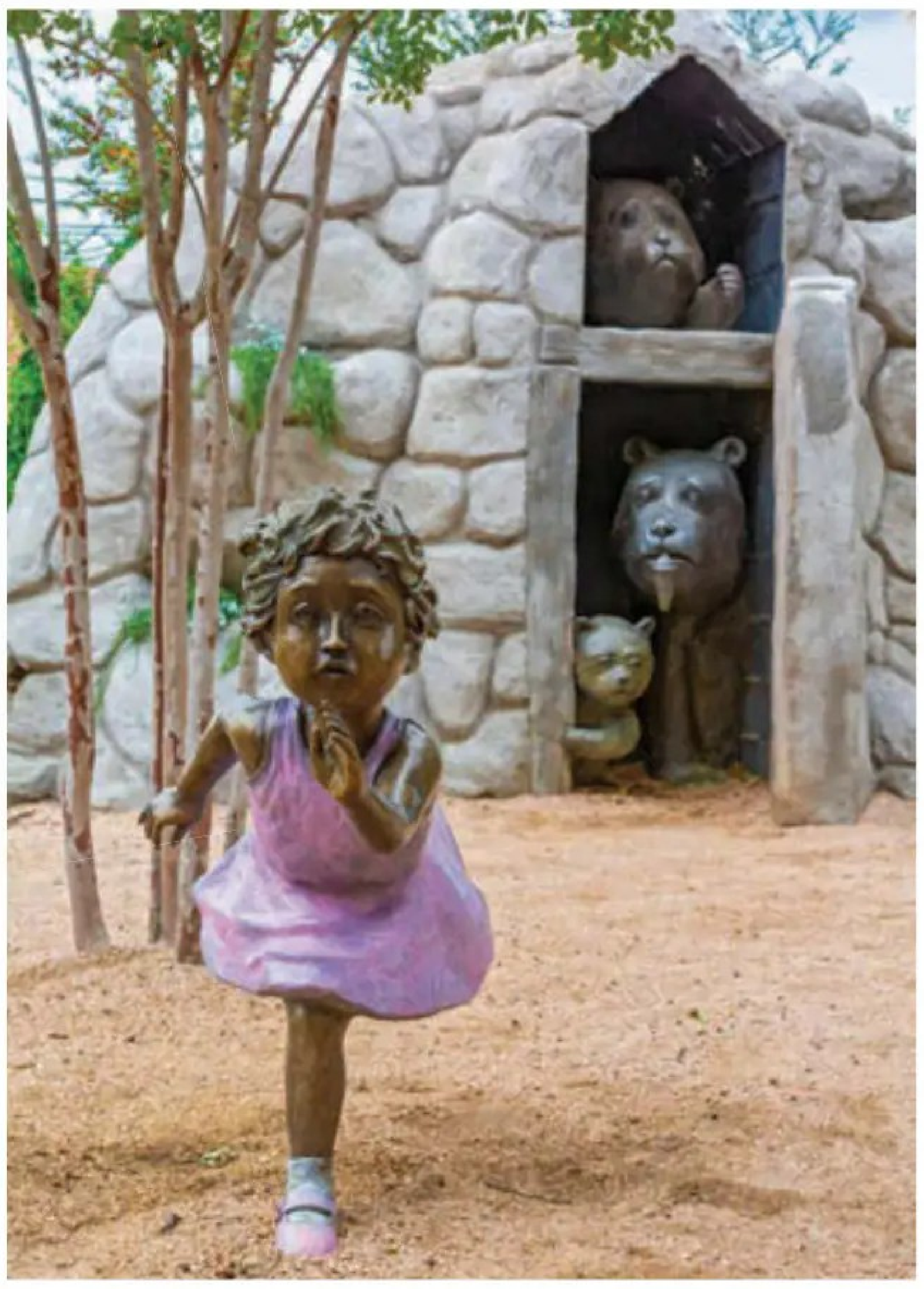
And look up there, to the right. If you squint, you should just be able to make out the word TERRIFIC spun on a spiderweb in the corner, high above the portly, smiling face of Wilbur. It's the *Charlotte's Web* picture everyone remembers, and it is sculpted here looking just as it does in the book.

ADAMSON-SPALDING STORYBOOK GARDEN is located at 1008–1098 North 6th Street, Abilene, Texas 79601. For more information, phone (325) 677-1161 or visit abilenecac.org.





HEART OF TEXAS: At the center of Adamson-Spalding Storybook Garden stand five sculptures modeled upon works by illustrator Garth Williams [left]. These include a trio inspired by watercolors from the 1958 Little Golden Book *Three Bedtime Stories* [above], which placed The Three Bears in a rock house and gave Goldilocks a pink dress [right].



SKETCH OF AN ARTIST

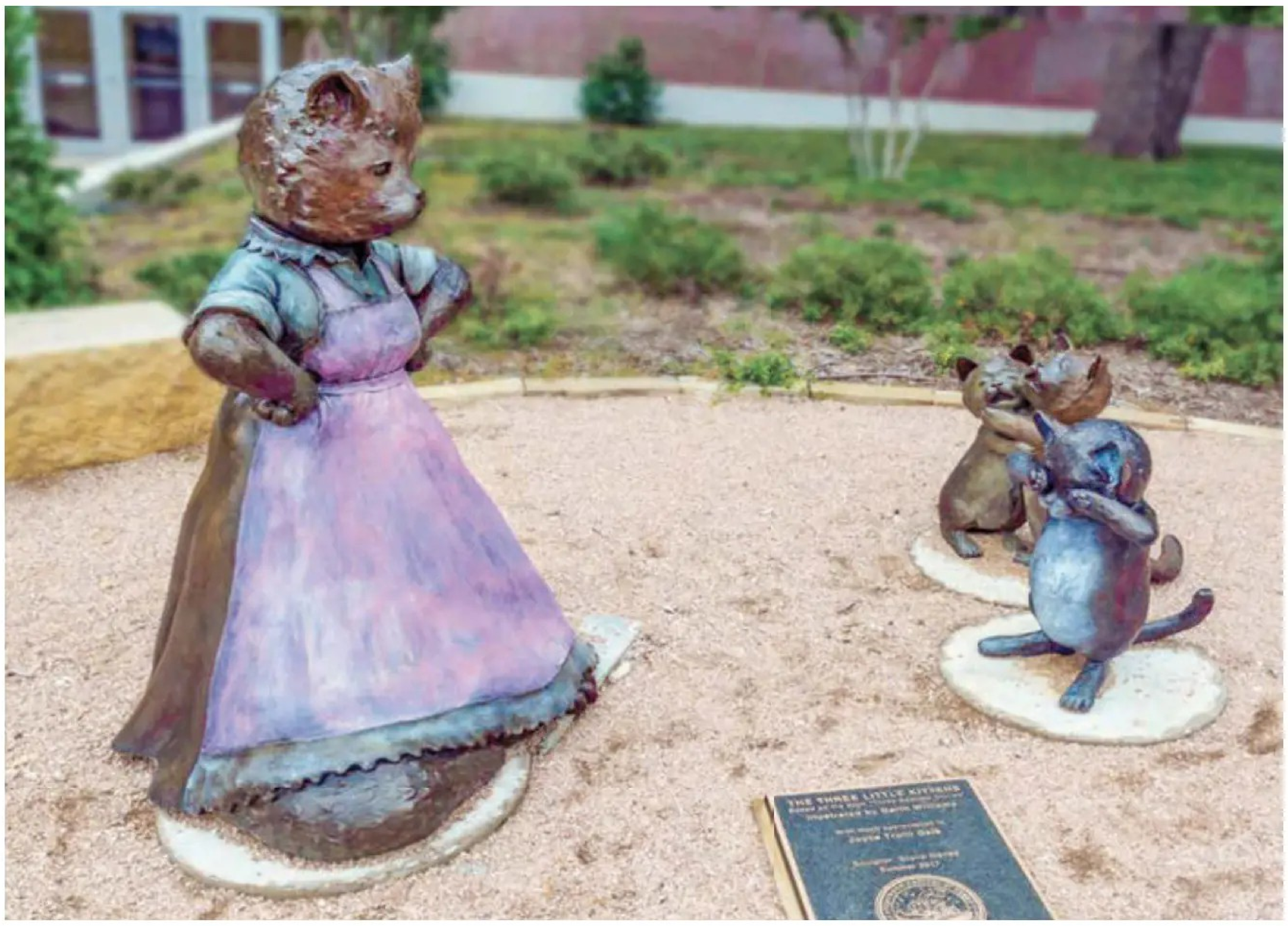
Garth Williams was born in 1912 in New York City, but the family moved from there to New Jersey, Ontario, and England. Wherever they lived, artistic talent apparently was in the water: Garth's mother was a landscape painter and his father a cartoonist. Williams studied painting and sculpture in college and, through the British Prix de Rome, furthered his art studies in France, Germany, and Italy. He was wounded in a London air raid during World War II and returned to the United States in the early 1940s.

The war was a turning point for Williams, his wife says. Williams loved children and wanted desperately to show them a life far from the atrocities he saw working for the Red Cross during the war.

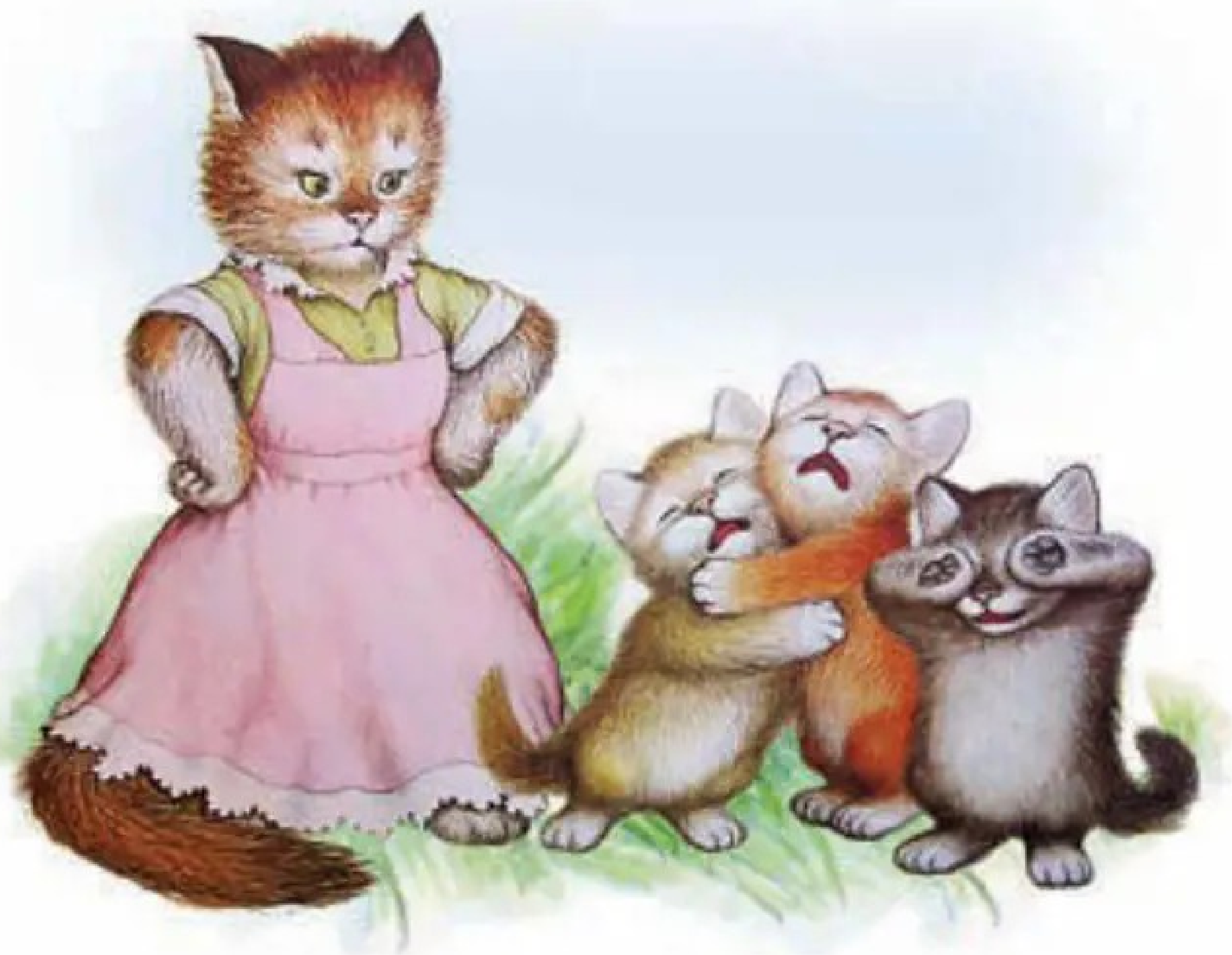
"He wanted to emphasize peace," Letty Williams says. "He loved children. He played with children, joked with children. He was always interested in their point of view."

One year on Christmas, while Garth and Letty were living in Mexico, he made two piñatas, she says—one filled with money, the other fruit—and called all the children in the village together to join in the fun.

"Books given, or read, to children can have a profound influence," Williams once said, as recounted in his 1996 obituary in The *New York Times*. He used his illustrations "to try to awaken something of importance…humor, responsibility, respect for others, interest in the world at large."



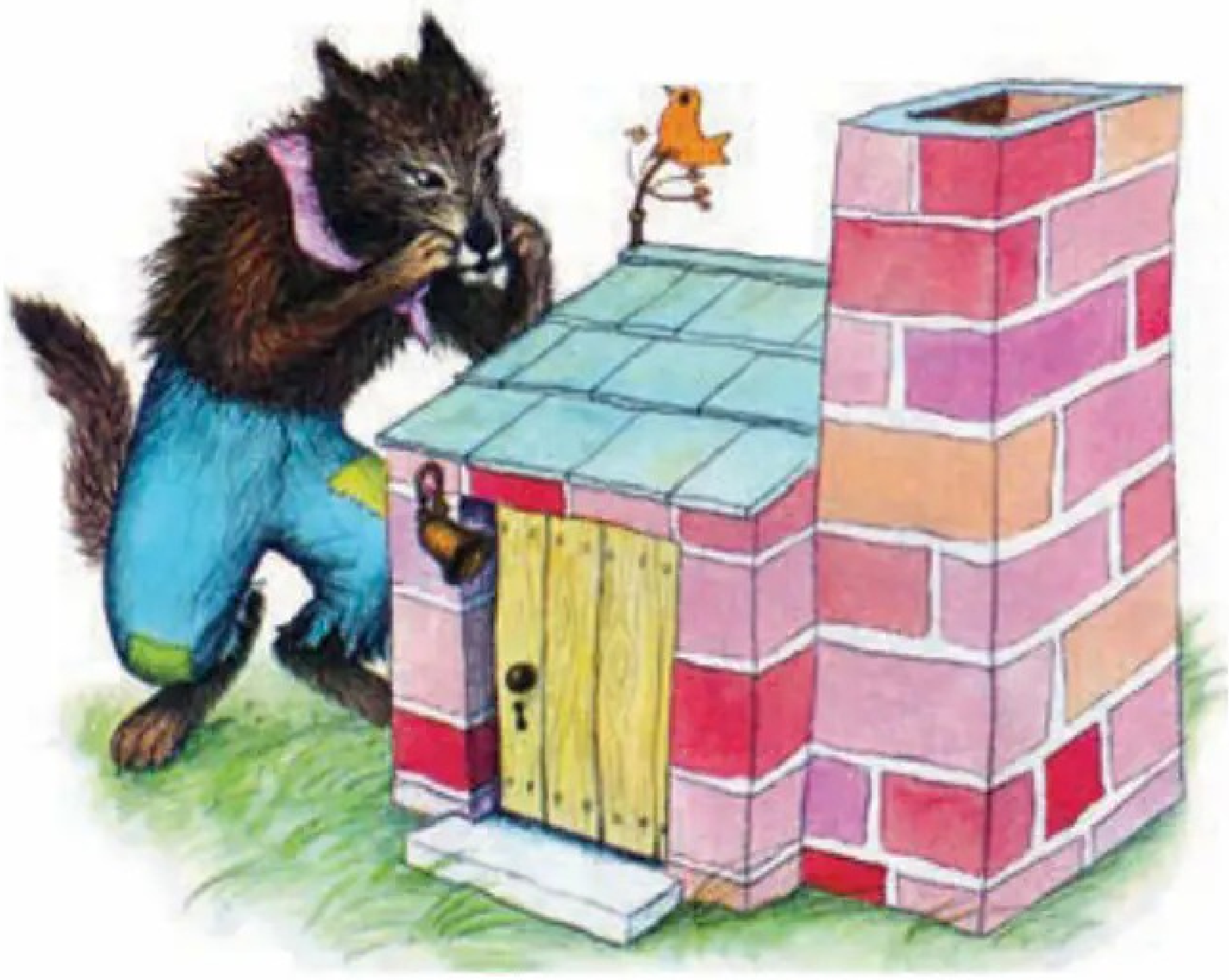
COPY CATS: A comparison between *The Three Little Kittens* at Adamson-Spalding [above] and the illustration upon which it is based [below] reveals how closely sculptor Steve Neves hewed to Williams' original works in creating the bronze figures. Everything from the black kitten's eye-rubbing to Mother Cat's nonplussed expression appears identical.

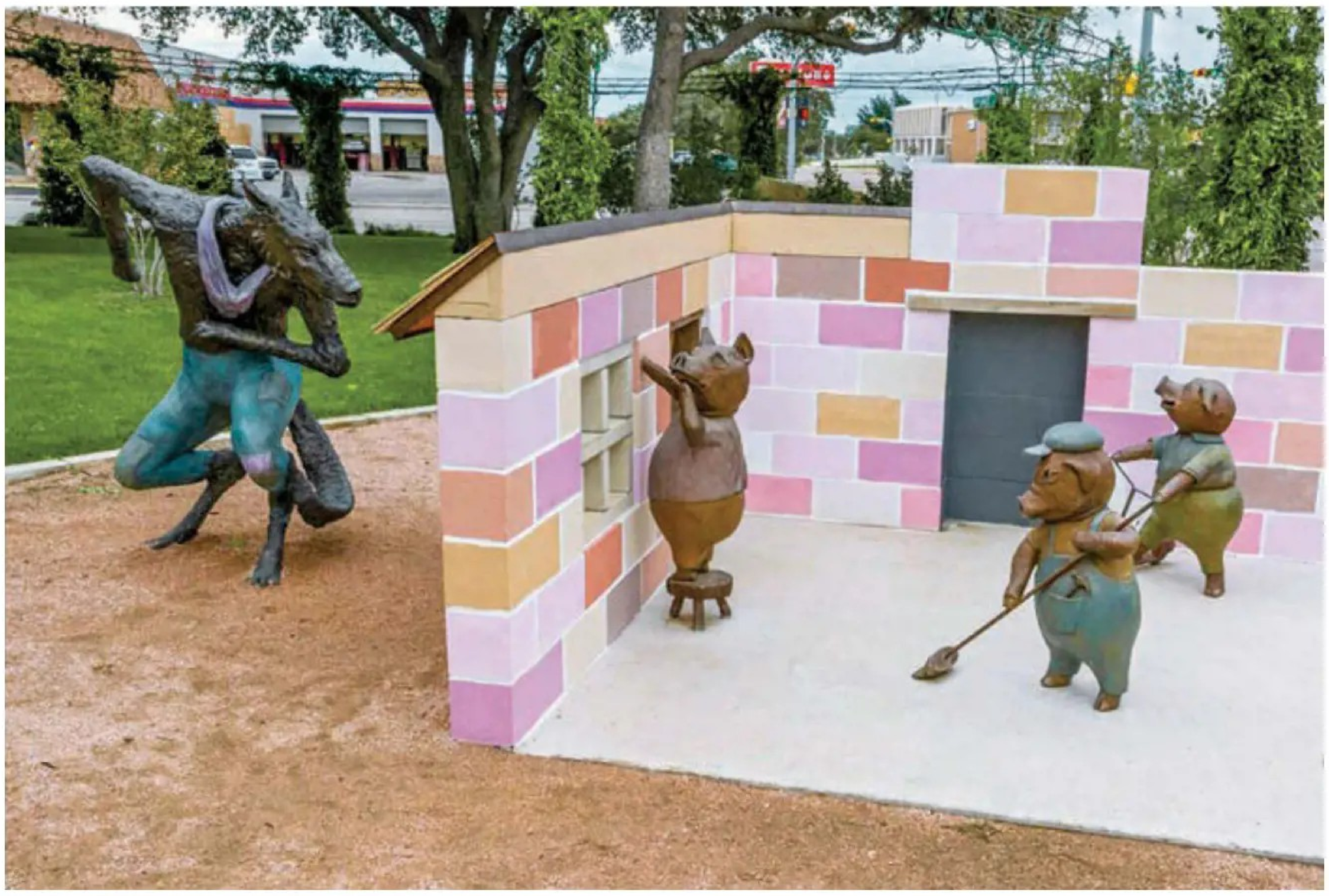


For his art, Williams pored over the details shared by the author in describing the character or action he was to portray—always trying to see through the author's eyes.

The measure of the artist's success is in the image that comes to mind when one imagines a character from a book he's worked on. Stuart Little, for example, is etched in the collective memory as the same dapper and brave little guy so well portrayed in Williams' drawings, "full of the joy of life and the fear of dogs."

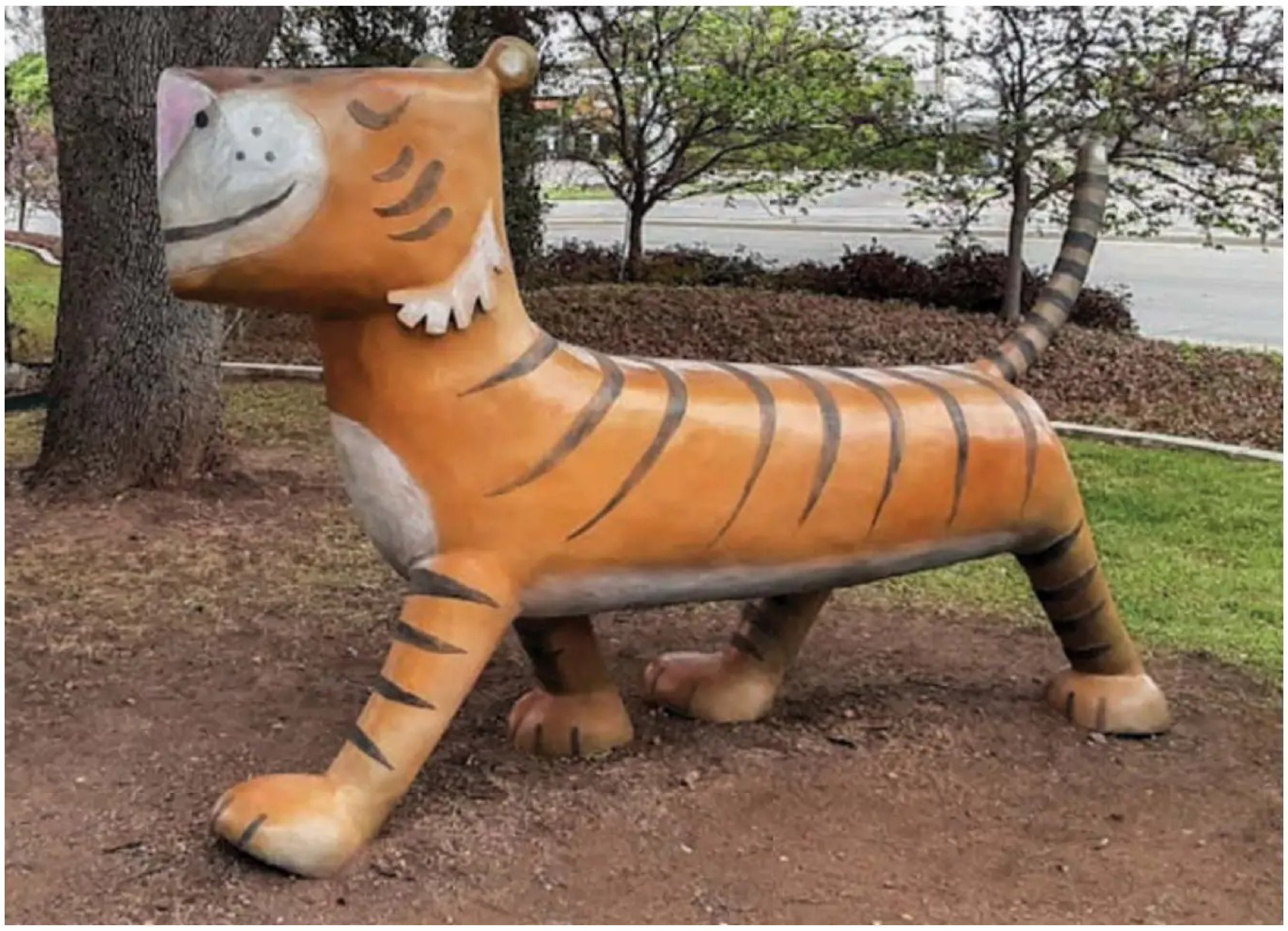
Williams' animals, however, still had to look like animals. *The New Yorker* shares a story about Williams' and White's disagreement over how to draw a closeup of Charlotte wrapping up a fly in a way that was realistic but not frightening, as myriad eyes and fangs tend to be.

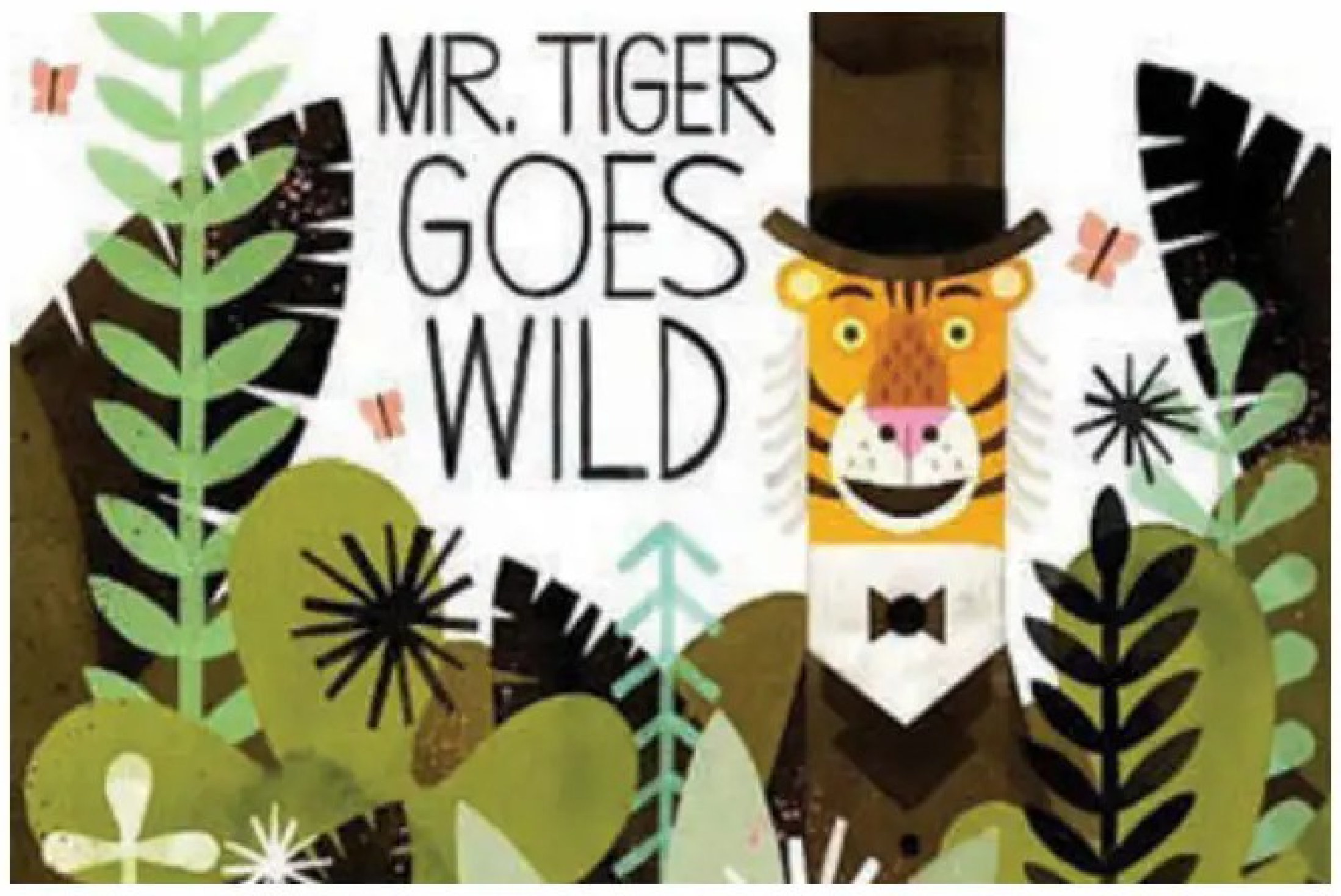




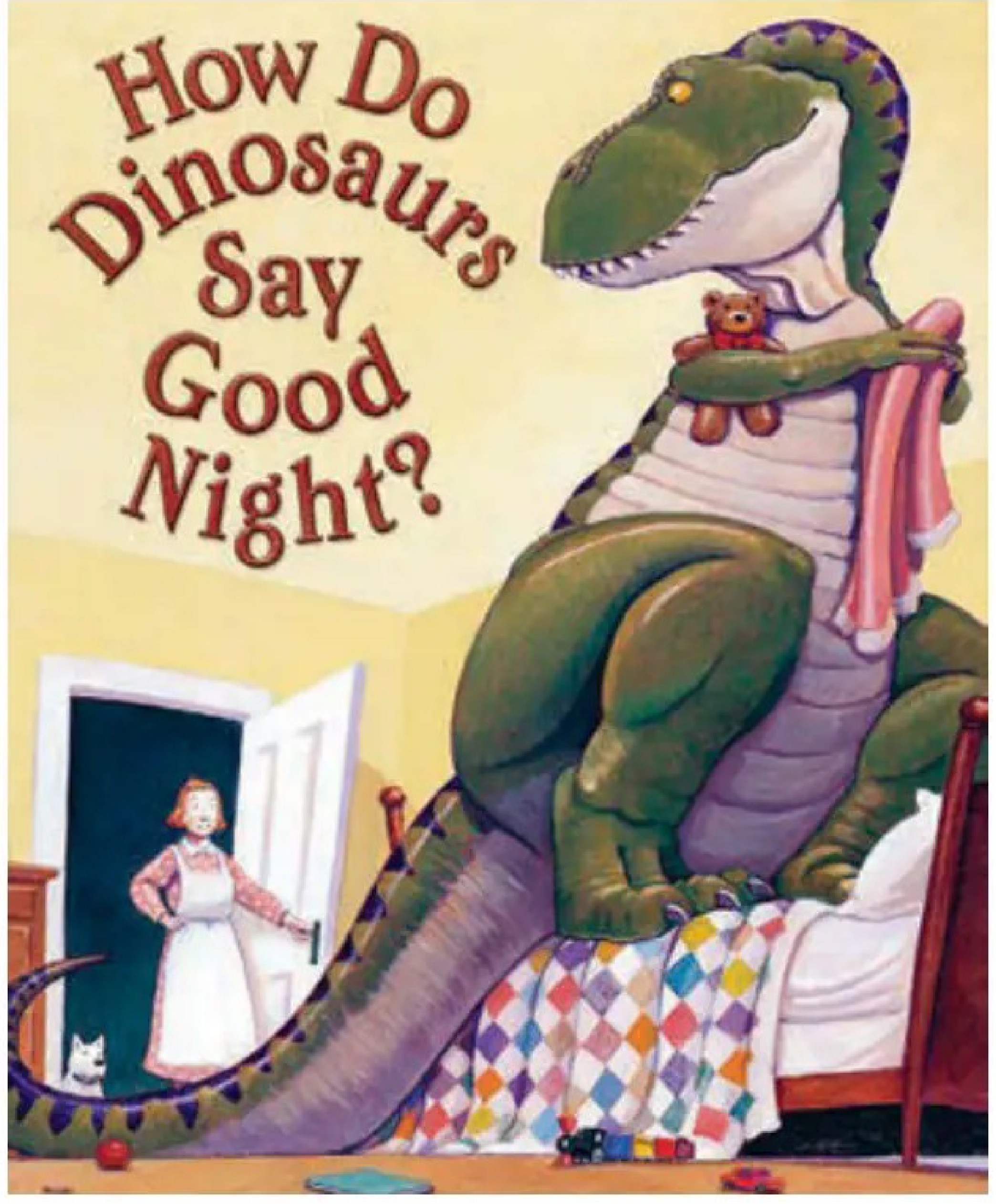
HUFF AND STUFF: [Above] One of Williams' watercolors for "The Three Little Pigs" features a brick house that appears to be constructed with 1950s jumbo toy building blocks. [Right] The pig's home at Adamson-Spalding makes striking use of the same pink, orange, and orchid bricks, giving the scene a decidedly retro look.

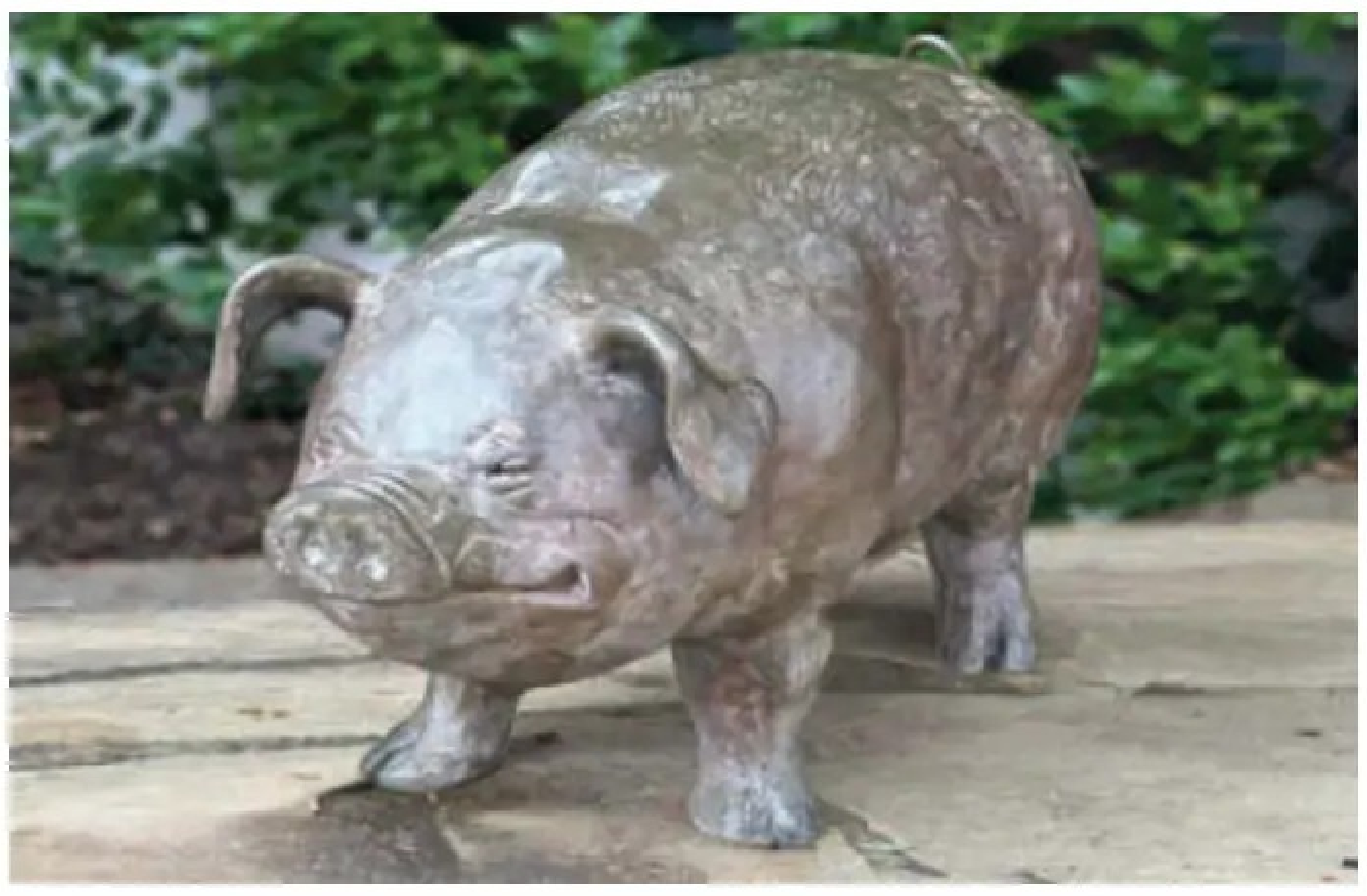
Adamson-Spalding Storybook Garden photos © Stephen Saks Photography.

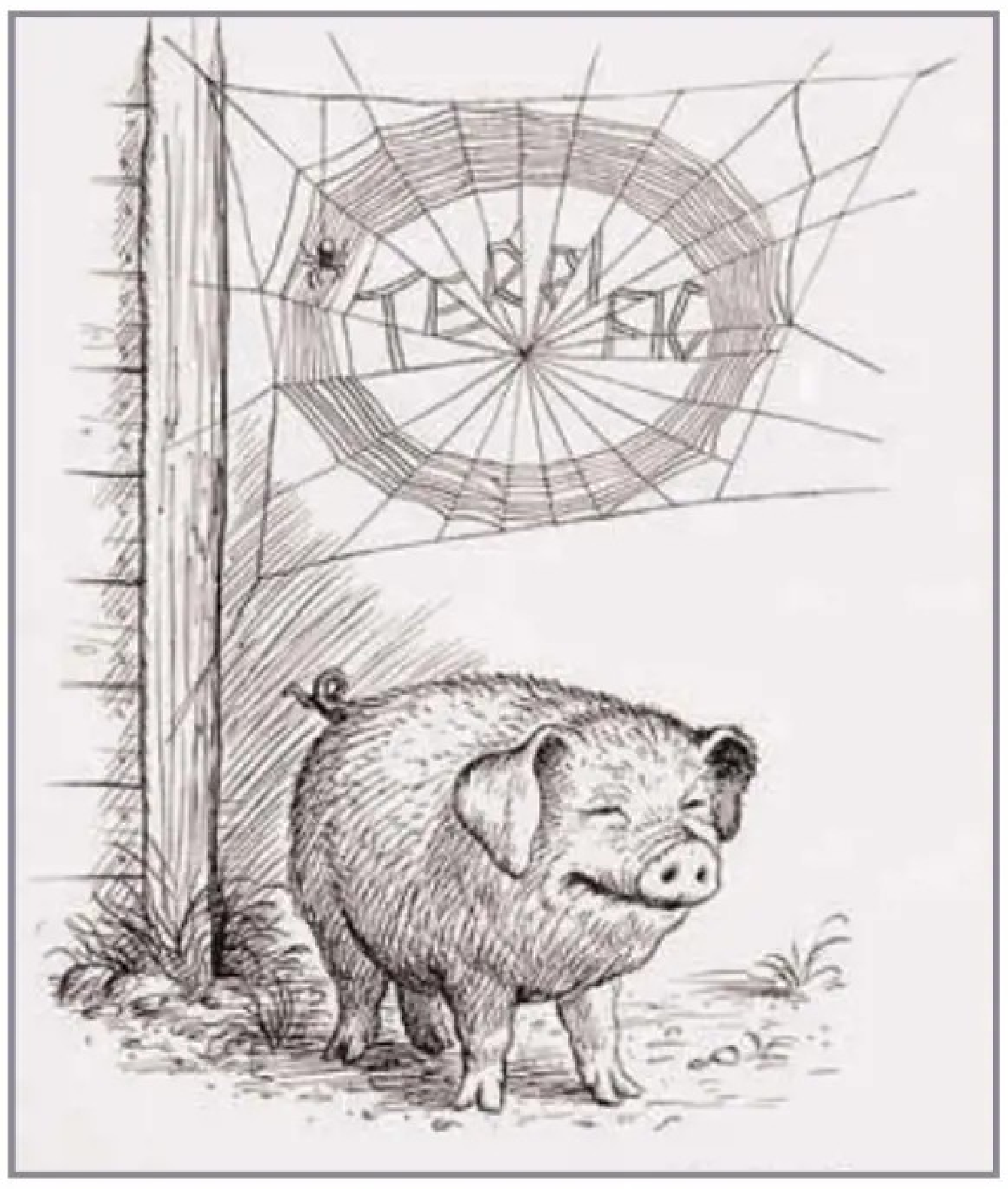




ORANGE JUICED: [Left] The titular Mr. Tiger from *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild* was installed at Adamson-Spalding in 2019. The book's author and illustrator, Peter Brown, was on hand for the unveiling, telling the *Abeline Reporter-News* how gratified he was to see so many celebrants attending in orange.







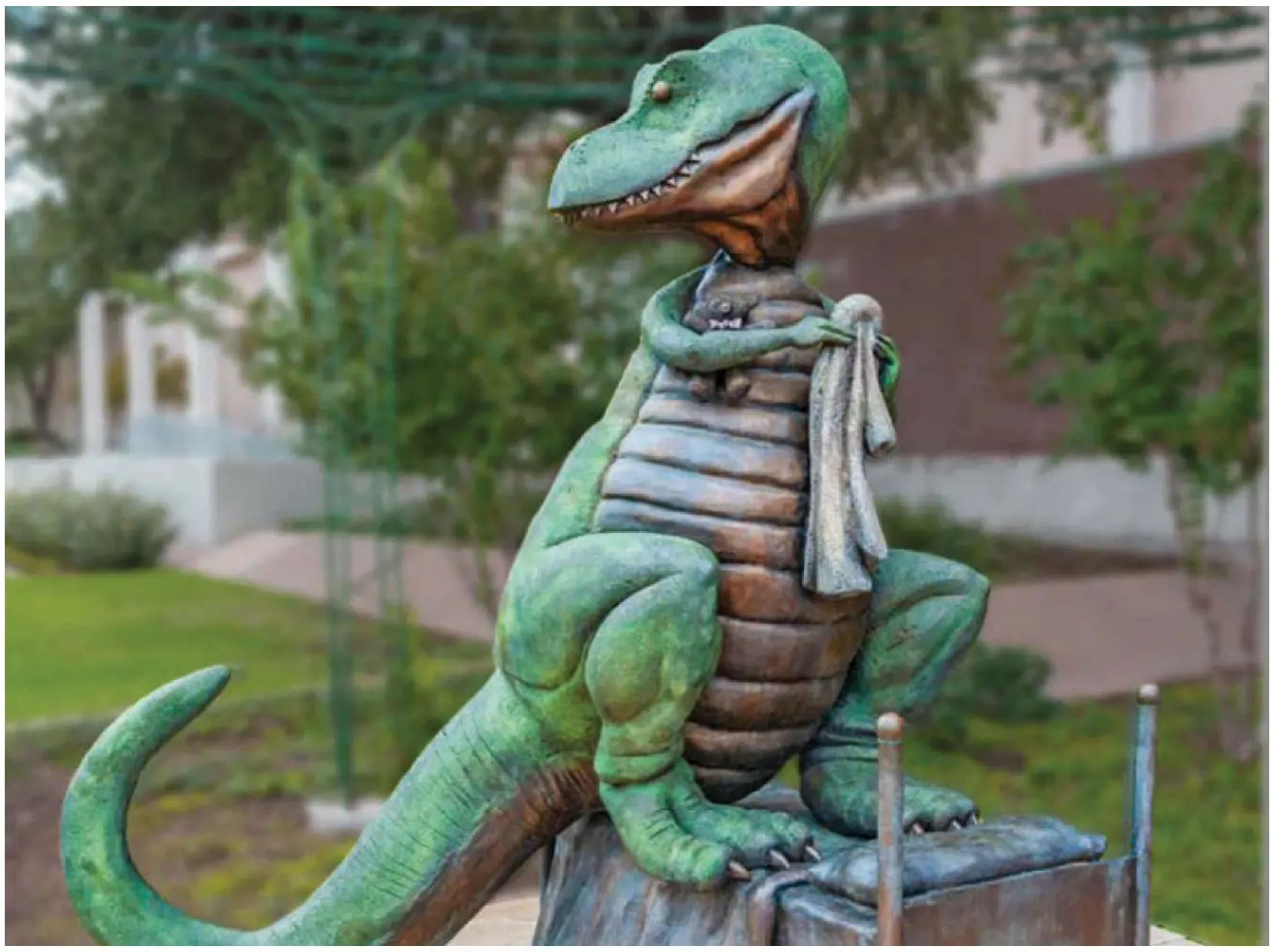
FINE SWINE: [Above and right] The model for the *Charlotte's Web* sculpture at Adamson-Spalding was presented by the book's drawing of Wilbur standing proudly under the web-spun word TERRIFIC. The illustration is unusual in that it shows the pig grinning.

As the story goes, the author encouraged Williams to draw Charlotte looking down, with just her top two eyes visible. It worked well, even though Williams would later say of White's idea: "I contend he cheated."

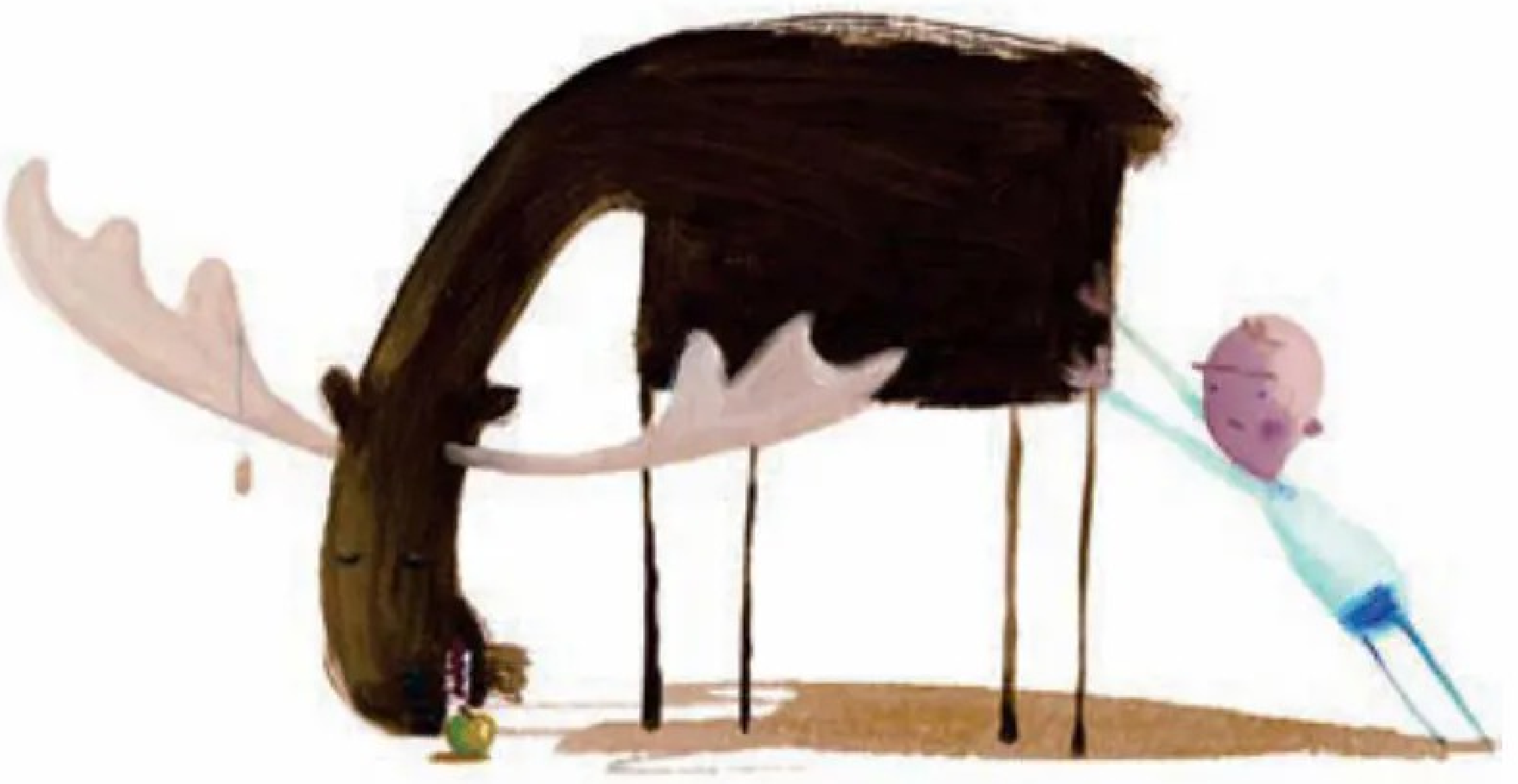
Williams pulled it off, though, and today his illustrations for the book are every bit as recognizable as White's playful prose. That's one reason Williams' drawings were chosen to play a starring role in Abilene's years-long transformation into the "Storybook Capital of America."

Walk around the downtown cultural district and you'll spot bronze sculptures—nearly forty in all—of the Lorax, the Grinch, the Cat in the Hat, the Man in the Moon, Evan and his Friend, Plum the Peacock, and more.

The Abilene Cultural Affairs Council started all this back in the 1990s after author William Joyce placed a character from his book *Santa Calls* in the Texas city.



SINGULAR LIZARD: [Left] When the Storybook Garden opened in 2017, its beady-eyed T-Rex was its only sculpture not inspired by the art of Garth Williams. The green giant was adapted from the cover illustration of *How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?* illustrated by Mark Teague.



MOOSE AND MOUSE: [Above and left] One of the more modern sculptures at Adamson-Spalding depicts Marcel and Wilfred from Oliver Jeffers' 2012 book *This Moose Belongs to Me.* [Below right] A favorite of classic fans is Stuart Little as drawn by Garth Williams in his birchbark canoe.

"We knew it was a good mission and cause," says dreamer extraordinaire Lynn Barnett, the council's longtime executive director, "but the fact that it has such a multi-generational appeal has been really, really great."

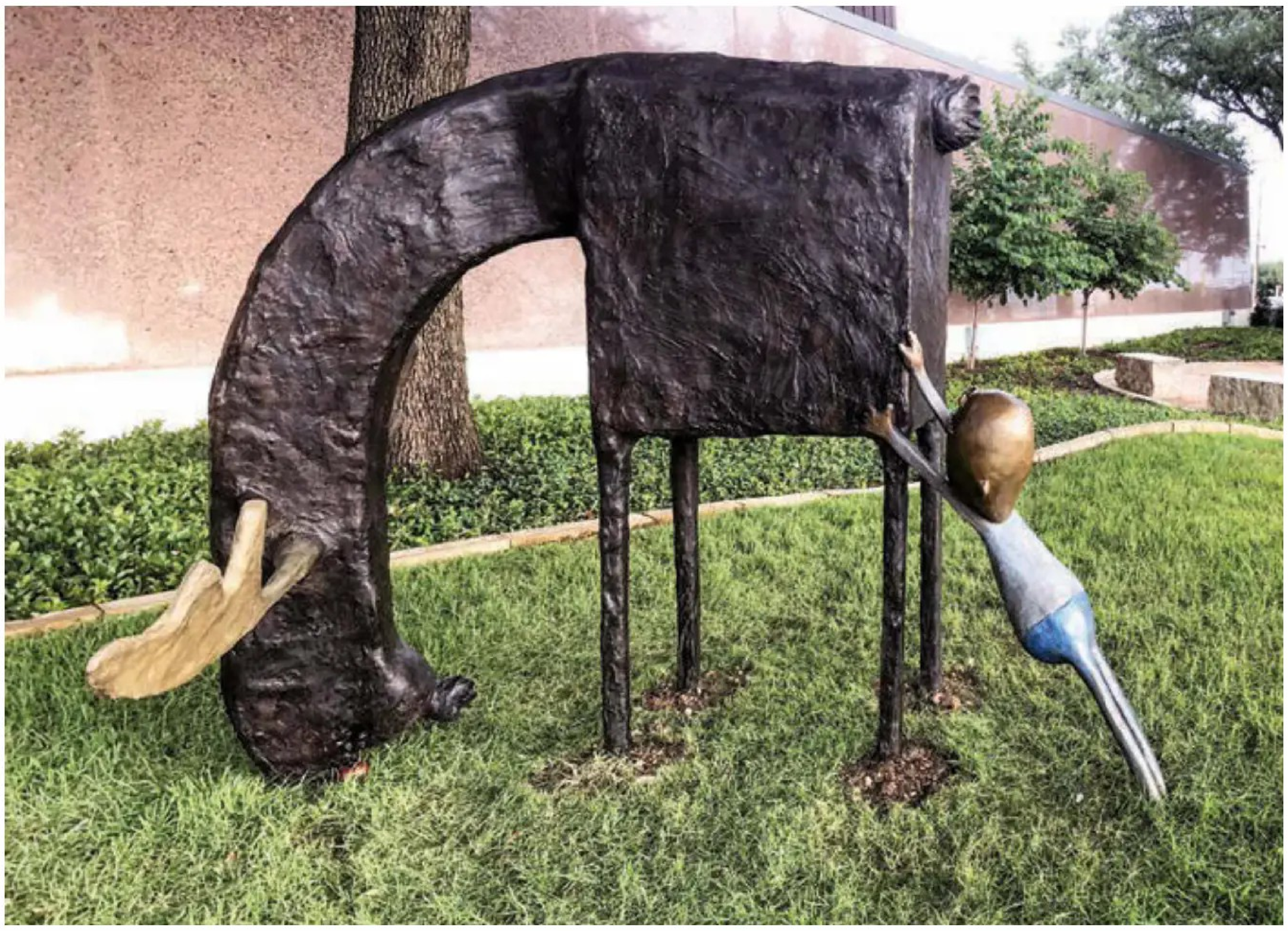
Book devotees from far and wide drive the extra mile to Abilene to visit the Adamson-Spalding Storybook Garden and the rest of the sculptures and storybook benches found around town. A smartphone app guides guests to sights throughout the city, encouraging visitors to "collect" storybook quotes and sculptures along the way. The garden was expanded in June 2025 during the city's thriving annual Children's Art + Literacy Festival, which gave a special nod to artist Matt Phelan. In 2026, during a CALF celebration of art from Winnie-the-Pooh, the garden will expand again into the new Clear Fork Bank Storybook Garden—this time to include a special children's play area and sculptures of Piglet, Pooh, Eeyore, Tigger, and all the favorites from A. A. Milne's Hundred-Acre Wood.

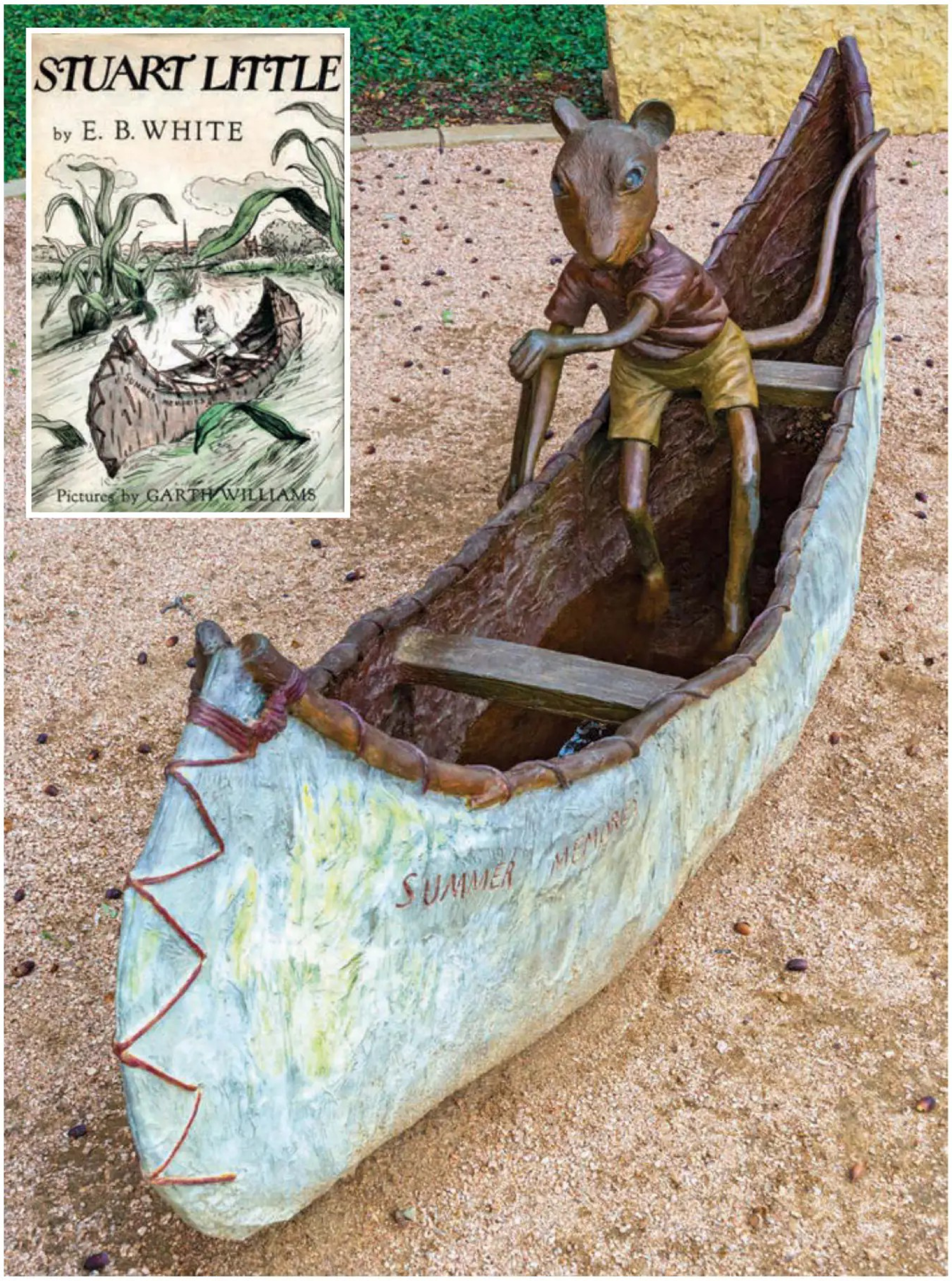
Letty Williams has seen the sculptures in Abilene. She visited the unveiling of her husband's work with her and Garth's daughter and granddaughter and absolutely loved the experience.

"It was so wonderful," she said. "The whole city getting together to celebrate my husband. I never imagined it. I have such wonderful memories of Abilene, Texas."

In fact, she said, someday soon she's going to call up Lynn Barnett and tell her she's on her way for a return visit. Perhaps you will get to meet her there as part of your own story.

MATTHEW ANDERSON is a Washington-based author and a Roadside Contributor at AMERICAN ROAD. Photo of Mr. Tiger sculpture by Veronica Garcia. Wilbur by TOX. Photo of Marcel & Wilfred sculpture courtesy Abilene Cultural Affairs Council. Good Night Dinosaur and Stuart Little sculptures © Stephen Saks Photography.

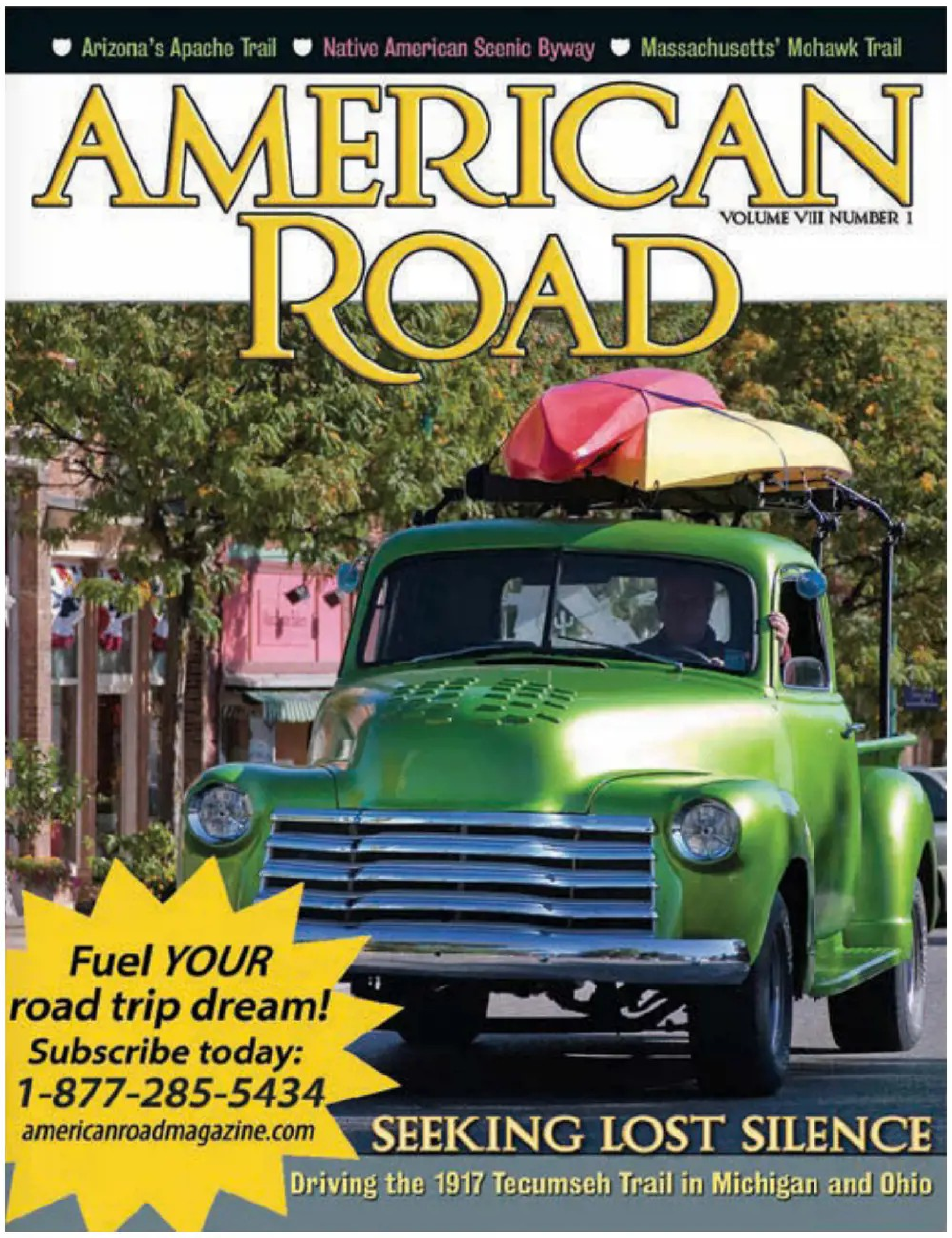




ADVERTISER INDEX

#	ADVERTISER	PAGE
1.	Allegheny National Forest (Pa.) VB	29
2.	Alert Drops	66
3.	Alleghany Highlands (Va.) CofC	27
4.	Allegheny National Forest (Pa.) VB	27
5.	Alpine Helen/White County (Ga.) CVB	28
6.	*American Road* magazine	8, 110
7.	*American Road* Trip Sweepstakes	26–31
8.	Bandon Area (Ore.) CofC	111
9.	Bedford (Va.)/Destination Bedford	1
10.	Boom or Bust Byway (La.)	16
11.	Bristlecone (Nev.) CVB/Visit Ely	107
12.	Carbon County (Wyo.) CVB	inside front
13.	Cascade Loop Scenic Byway (Wash.)	16, 110
14.	City of West Wendover (Nev.)	119
15.	Clarksville-Montgomery (Tenn.) CVB	6
16.	Colorado Byways	16, 92–93
17.	Conejos County Tourism (Colo.)	110
18.	Dodge City (Kans.)	83
19.	Explore the Dalles (Ore.)	111
20.	Florida's Adventure Coast	29
21.	Friends of Gillespie Country Schools (Tex.)	28
22.	Garden City (Kans.)/Finney County CVB	83
23.	Glacier's Route 66 Chocolate	60
24.	Green Country (Okla.) Marketing	65
25.	Group Travel Family	8, 86
26.	Gus' Chicken	64
27.	Hemlock Inn (N.C.)	28
28.	Heritage Corridor (Ill.) CVB	30
29.	High Country (Southeast Idaho)	26
30.	Historic Benbow Inn (Calif.)	64
31.	La Pine (Ore.) CofC	111
32.	Lecompton (Kans.)	82
33.	Levy County (Fla.) / VB	29
34.	Liberal (Kans.)	83
35.	Louisiana Travel Assoc.	71–73
36.	Louisiana's Cajun Bayou	73
37.	Louisiana's Culinary Trails	30, 72
38.	Marland Grand Home (Okla.)	65
39.	Marland Mansion (Okla.)	65
40.	Natchez Trace (Miss., Ala., Tenn.)	back cover
41.	National Scenic Byways Foundation	16
42.	Nevada Silver Trails	118
43.	Ohio Amish Country	16
44.	Ohio Byways	17
45.	Oregon Coop	111
46.	Oregon's Mount Hood Territory	114–115
47.	PaperPie	29, 107
48.	Pontiac (Ill.)	28
49.	Pony Express Museum (Mo.)	28
50.	Pony Express Territory (Nev.)	118
51.	Port Washington (Wis.) CofC/Port Washington Tourism	30
52.	Ridgeland (Miss.) Tourism Commission	61
53.	Russell County (Kans.)	64
54.	Saint Charles (Mo.) CVB	13
55.	Santee Cooper Country (S.C.)	87
56.	Sevierville, Tenn.	6
57.	Smokey Bear	106
58.	Southeast Tourism Society	6, 60, 70
59.	Springfield (Ill.) CVB	31
60.	St. Bernard Parish (La.) Tourist Commission	72
61.	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	7
62.	Tennessee Overhill Heritage Assn.	8
63.	Tennessee Trails & Byways	9
64.	Thoroughbred Country (S.C.)	60
65.	Travel Nevada	inside back
66.	Travel Stories	16
67.	Vernon Parish (La.) Tourism/Myths & Legends Byway	71
68.	Visit Chillicothe (Ohio)	17
69.	Visit Claremore (Okla.)	65
70.	Visit Iberville Parish (La.) Tourism Commission	73
71.	Visit Kearney (Neb.) VB	82
72.	Visit Muskogee (Okla.)	65
73.	Visit Nacogdoches (Tex.)	107
74.	Visit Rockaway Beach (Ore.)	111
75.	West Baton Rouge (La.) CVB	71
76.	Wild Travels TV	27, 82
77.	Wild West Country/Southwest Kansas	83
78.	Yazoo (Miss.) CVB	29, 60

Request FREE information from our advertisers online at americanroadmagazine.com


Arizona's Apache Trail • Native American Scenic Byway • Massachusetts' Mohawk Trail
AMERICAN ROAD
VOLUME VIII NUMBER 1
Fuel YOUR road trip dream!
Subscribe today:
1-877-285-5434
americanroadmagazine.com
SEEKING LOST SILENCE
Driving the 1917 Tecumseh Trail in Michigan and Ohio

AMERICAN CROSSROAD

SOLUTION TO THIS ISSUE'S PUZZLE

S	A	S	S	█	G	I	A	N	T	█	P	L	U	M	█	█	P	O	O	H
E	X	P	O	█	A	N	J	O	U	█	R	I	S	E	█	T	E	N	G	E
B	I	R	L	█	F	I	A	T	S	P	I	D	E	R	█	I	N	U	R	E
█	A	U	D	I	F	O	X	█	H	U	M	O	R	█	H	A	N	S	E	L
█	L	E	I	D	E	N	█	R	E	M	U	S	█	S	O	R	I	█	█	█
█	█	█	E	L	S	█	█	I	R	A	S	█	V	W	R	A	B	B	I	T
S	P	A	R	E	█	P	L	A	Y	S	█	█	O	I	S	█	█	O	R	A
M	O	D	S	█	H	A	I	L	█	█	R	A	I	S	E	█	W	O	U	K
E	N	D	█	S	E	N	T	S	█	W	I	N	D	S	█	T	A	B	L	E
E	E	S	█	P	L	E	A	█	G	I	S	T	█	█	B	U	N	Y	A	N
█	█	█	█	R	E	L	I	A	N	T	K	I	T	T	E	N	█	█	█	█
P	I	E	M	A	N	█	█	M	A	C	S	█	E	A	S	E	█	S	T	M
A	G	L	E	T	█	F	A	I	T	H	█	L	A	C	E	S	█	H	A	Y
C	L	A	N	█	M	I	D	A	S	█	█	E	M	I	T	█	P	O	R	T
E	O	N	█	█	A	N	A	█	█	B	E	A	S	T	█	T	E	E	T	H
D	O	D	G	E	R	A	M	█	C	L	A	P	█	█	C	R	T	█	█	█
█	█	█	R	A	I	L	█	C	H	A	R	T	█	C	H	E	E	S	E	█
L	A	P	U	T	A	█	B	L	I	N	D	█	S	H	E	E	R	E	D	█
A	N	I	M	E	█	B	U	I	C	K	R	E	G	A	L	█	P	I	E	D
T	A	M	P	S	█	C	O	N	K	█	U	R	M	I	A	█	A	N	N	A
E	S	P	Y	█	█	E	Y	E	S	█	M	A	L	T	S	█	N	E	S	T

For additional archived travel-themed puzzles and their solutions, visit *americanroadmagazine.com/crossroad.*

A simple spray on the tongue makes you alert

Stay Alert!
Stay Alive!

ALL NATURAL-NO CAFFEINE OR STIMULANTS-DOCTOR RECOMMENDED

"A simple spray on the tongue makes you alert!"
-Dr. Randolph H. Noble M.D. F.C.C.P.

"Genius fix for drowsy moments"
-Parents Magazine

"Saves more lives than the Heimlich Maneuver"
-Dr. Henry Heimlich

Honored by the U.S. Congress

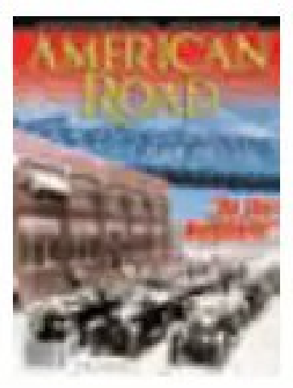
STAY ALERT
STAY ALIVE!
ALERT LEMON FLAVOR
ALERT DROPS
NATURALY BOOST YOUR ADRENALINE
NO CAFFEINE OR STIMULANTS

ORDER NOW - DRIVE SAFELY!
WWW.ALERTDROPS.COM

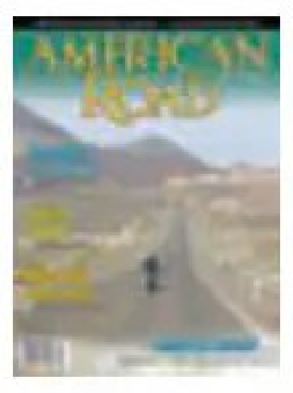
CURIOS
John Claar's
HITCHING POST
Originally Established 1950
Road Gifts & Souvenirs

AMERICAN ROAD® BACK ISSUES

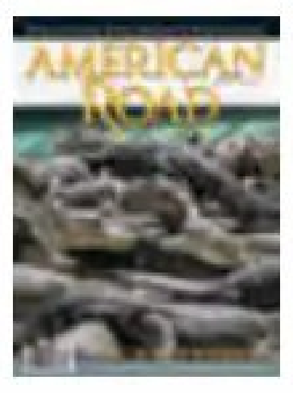
SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!



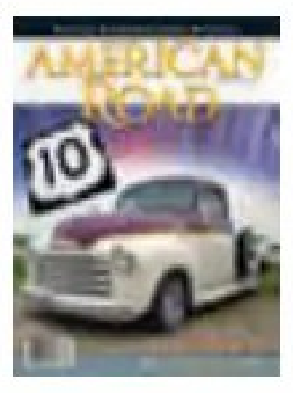
VOLUME II, NUMBER 1 (SPRING 2004)
Features include "Gimme 3C" (a tour of Ohio's 3C Highway) and "Highway 49er" (California Highway 49).
$10.95 + S&H*



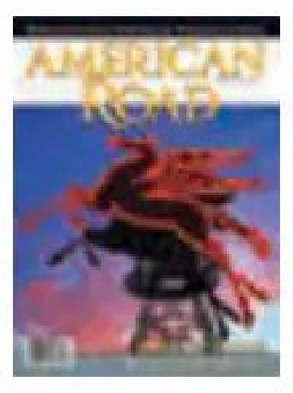
VOLUME II, NUMBER 3 (AUTUMN 2004)
Features include "Drive Me Lonely" (Nevada US 50) and "The End of the Earth" (Arizona's Indian Highway 18).
$10.95 + S&H*



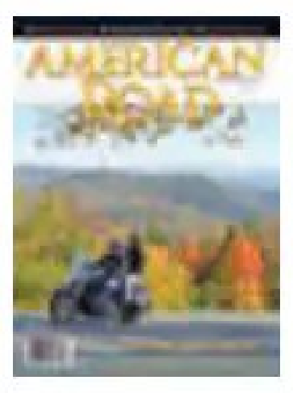
VOLUME IX, NUMBER 4 (WINTER 2011)
Features include "Orange Bowl" (Florida's Orange Blossom Trail) and "Cherries Jubilee" (Wisconsin's Door Peninsula).
$10.95 + S&H*



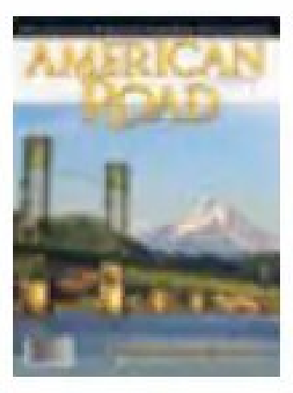
VOLUME X, NUMBER 4 (WINTER 2012)
Features include "US Highway 10" (Midland, Michigan, to Fargo, North Dakota) and "*American Road*'s Take Ten!"
$10.95 + S&H*



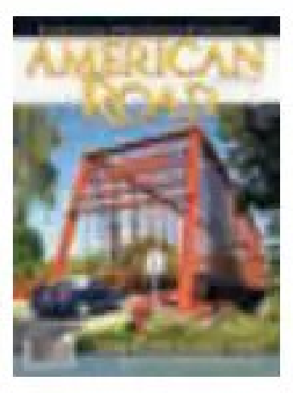
VOLUME XI, NUMBER 2 (SUMMER 2013)
Features include "Electric Highway" (Forsyth to Missoula, Montana) and "Energy Loop Scenic Byway."
$10.95 + S&H*



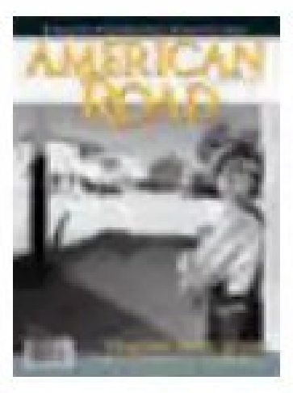
VOLUME XI, NUMBER 3 (AUTUMN 2013)
Features include "Molly Stark Trail" (Vermont Route 9) and "Unsinkable! Molly Brown Route."
$10.95 + S&H*



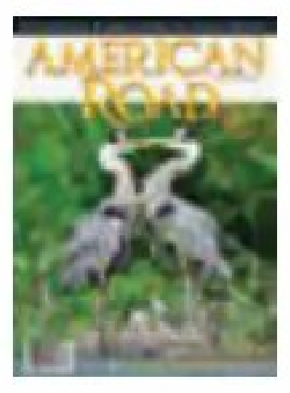
VOLUME XI, NUMBER 4 (WINTER 2013)
Features include "Bank Shot" (Old Washington State Road Number 8) and "*American Road*'s Water Works."
$10.95 + S&H*



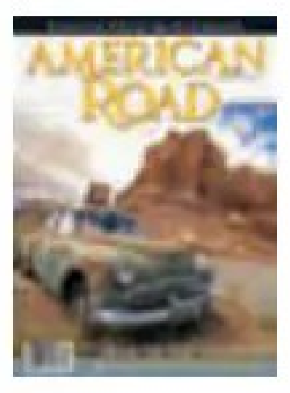
VOLUME XII, NUMBER 1 (SPRING 2014)
Features include "Wonderland Way"—an article that traces Indiana's early scenic route—and "Alice in Postcard Land."
$10.95 + S&H*



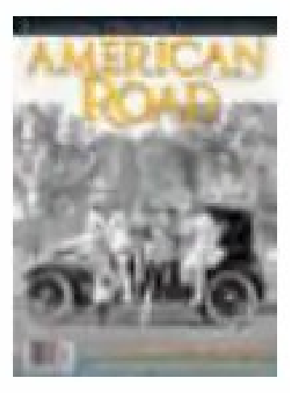
VOLUME XII, NUMBER 3 (AUTUMN 2014)
Features include "Paper Moon"—a retracing of the 1973 film—and an interview with star Tatum O'Neal.
$10.95 + S&H*



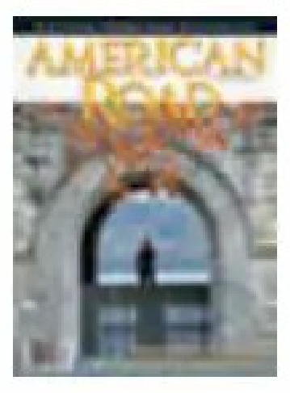
VOLUME XII, NUMBER 4 (WINTER 2014)
Features include "Watch the Birdies" (Louisiana's Creole Nature Trail) and the compendium "*American Road*'s Big Birds." $10.95 + S&H*



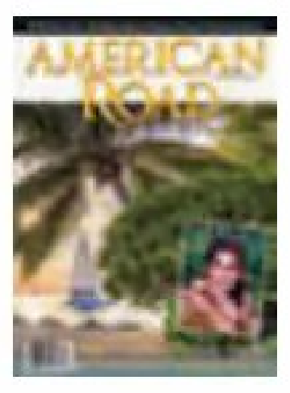
VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 1 (SPRING 2015)
Features include "Trail of the Ancients" (Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway in Colorado and Utah) and "New York's Finger Lakes: Between the Rocks and a Soft Space." $10.95 + S&H*



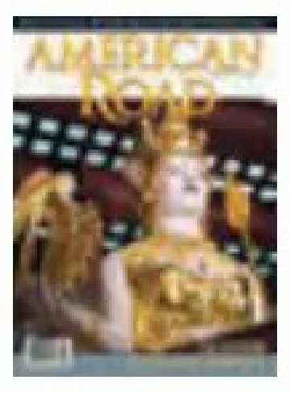
VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 2 (SUMMER 2015)
Features include "Flicker Highway" (*American Road*'s Silent Movie Route), "Silent Star Cars," and "*American Road*'s Silent Era Films." $10.95 + S&H*



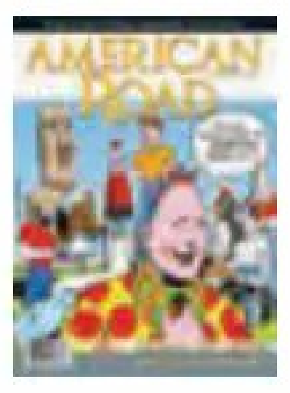
VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 3 (AUTUMN 2015)
Features "*American Road*'s Washington Irving Route" and "*American Road*'s Top 12 Classic Travel Books."
$10.95 + S&H*



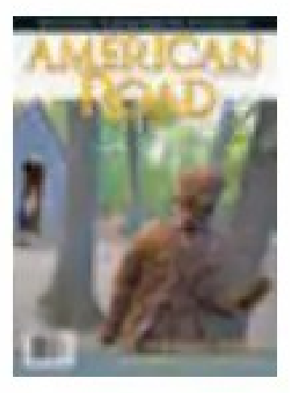
VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 4 (WINTER 2015)
Features include "Gulf Course" (Alabama Coastal Connection National Scenic Byway) and "Dawn Wells' Three-Hour Tours." $10.95 + S&H*



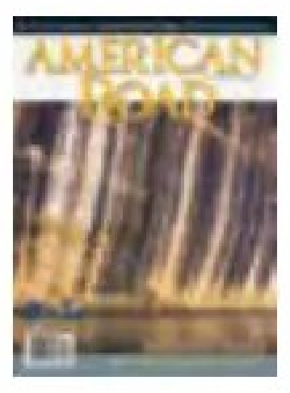
VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 1 (SPRING 2016)
Features include "*American Road*'s Seven Wonders of the Road," "*American Road*'s Mythic Proportions," and "Revisiting *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*" $10.95 + S&H*



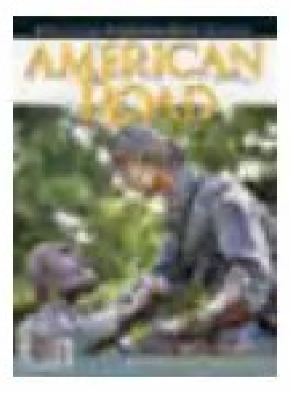
VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 2 (SUMMER 2016)
Features include "*American Road*'s Popeye vs. Superman Route," "Comic Book Cars," and an interview with Zippy the Pinhead creator, Bill Griffith. $10.95 + S&H*



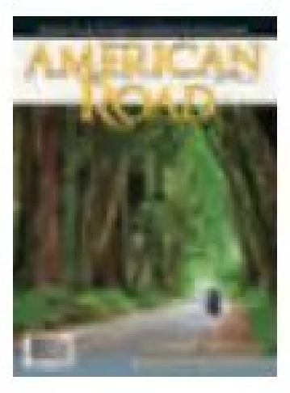
VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 3 (AUTUMN 2016)
Features include "*American Road*'s Henry David Thoreau Cape Cod Route," "The Road to Slabsides," and "*American Road*'s Top 12 Nature Books." $10.95 + S&H*



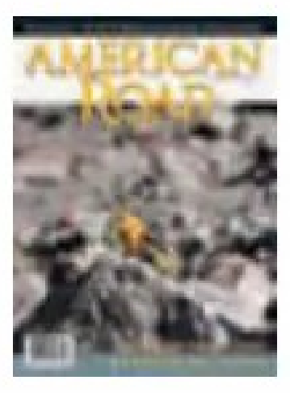
VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 4 (WINTER 2016)
Features include "Revisiting the Park-to-Park Highway," "Lost Park Postcards," and "*American Road*'s National Parks Photography Contest." $10.95 + S&H*



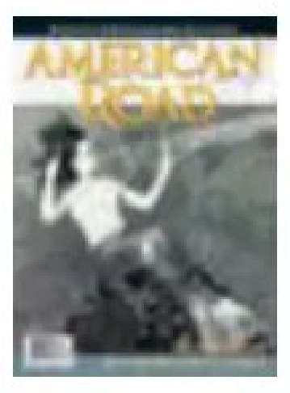
VOLUME XV, NUMBER 1 (SPRING 2017)
Features include "Fifteen on US Highway 15," "Fifteen More Along US 15," and "Fifteen Sense"—a collection of postcards celebrating our fifteenth year. $10.95 + S&H*



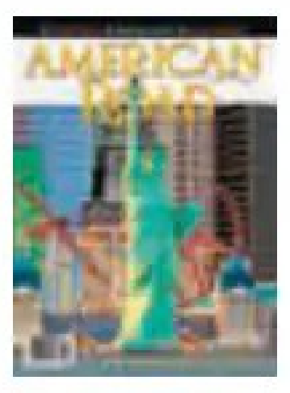
VOLUME XV, NUMBER 2 (SUMMER 2017)
Features include "Celebrating the Tamiami Trail," "Last Stagecoach to Deadwood," "Thumb's Up!" (Driving Michigan's Thumb), and "Jurassic Lark." $10.95 + S&H*



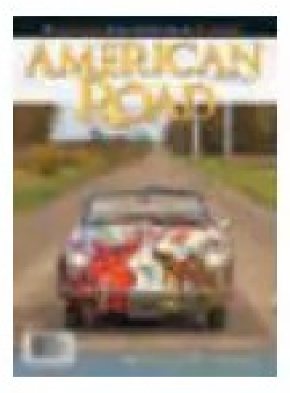
VOLUME XV, NUMBER 3 (AUTUMN 2017)
Features includes "McKenzie Highway," "Vermont Route 15," and "Trail of the Mountain Spirits Scenic Byway."
$10.95 + S&H*



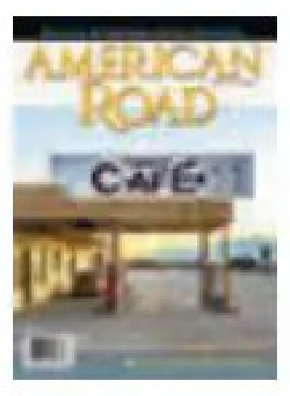
VOLUME XV, NUMBER 4 (WINTER 2017)
Features include "*American Road*'s Old Friends"—which revisits fifteen favorite roadside personalities—and the retrospective "Cover Stories." $10.95 + S&H*



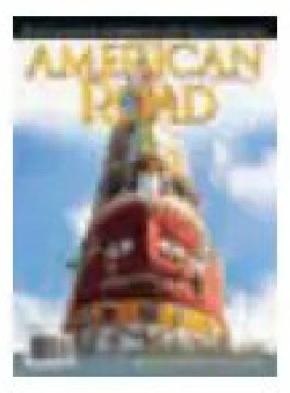
VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 1 (SPRING 2018)
Features "Viva Las Vegas!," "Central Avenue Albuquerque," and "Neon Highway 99 Revisited"—an enlightening trip along the old Pacific Highway. $10.95 + S&H*



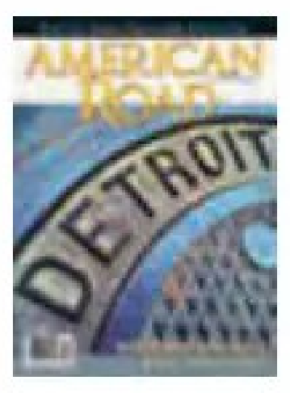
VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 2 (SUMMER 2018)
Features include "Rock Around the Road," "Vinyl Record Rides," and "Car Tunes"—musical odes to pink Cadillacs, red Corvettes, and one hot rod Lincoln. $10.95 + S&H*



VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 3 (AUTUMN 2018)
Features include "*American Road*'s Ghost Ride" and "It Came From the Mihmiverse!" (a look at the retro-style creature features of filmmaker Christopher R. Mihm). $10.95 + S&H*



VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 4 (WINTER 2018)
Features include "Three Artists in Search of the Slow Lane," "Totem Pole Park," and "*American Road*'s 'Picture-Perfect' Photography Contest." $10.95 + S&H*



VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 1 (SPRING 2019)
Features include "Woodward Avenue: The One and Only King of Roads" and "Greetings from the Lincoln Tunnel."
$10.95 + S&H*

ORDER FORM

QTY	ITEM	COST
	SHIPPING & HANDLING	
	TOTAL	

PHONE ORDERS 1-877-285-5434. **Payment in US funds only.**
WA residents add 8.9% sales tax. MI residents add 6% sales tax.
Additional shipping charges may apply to foreign orders.

MAILING INFORMATION

NAME ______________________

ADDRESS ______________________

CITY ______________ **STATE** ________ **ZIP** ________

PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ **My enclosed check or money order for $** ___________ **is made payable to** AMERICAN ROAD

☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

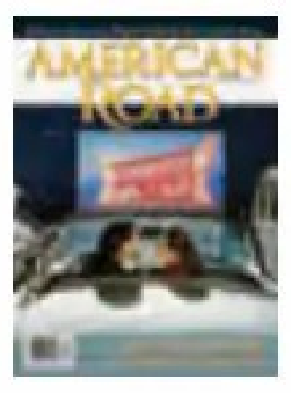
CARD# ______________________

EXP. DATE ______________ **CVV CODE** ________

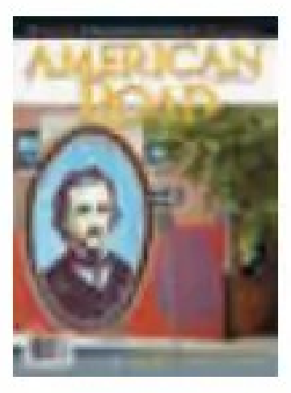
SIGNATURE ______________________

Mail to: AMERICAN ROAD, **HITCHING POST**
PO Box 46519 Mt. Clemens, MI 48046

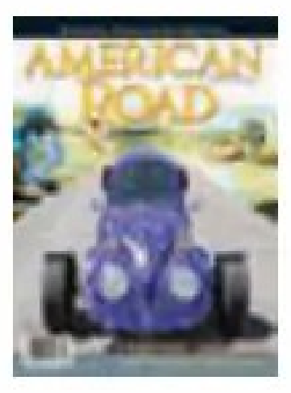
PHONE ORDERS 1-877-285-5434 x1 store.americanroadmagazine.com



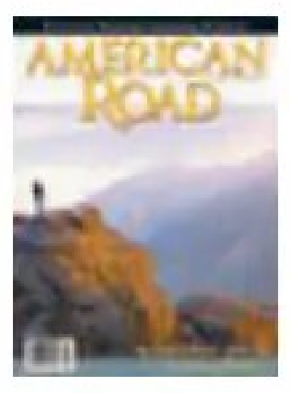
Volume XVII, Number 2 (Summer 2019)
Features include "A Night at the Drive-In 3," "*Star Trek* Original Movie Locations," and "*American Road*'s Sci-Fi Road Films." **$10.95 + s&h***



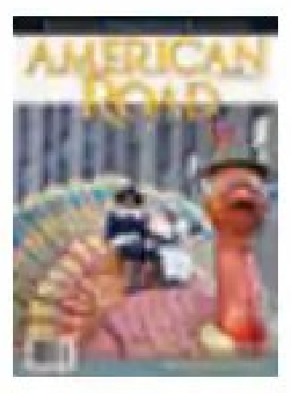
Volume XVII, Number 3 (Autumn 2019)
Features include "Finding Edgar"—our guide to Edgar Allan Poe locations—and "The Revisitations of Resurrection Mary." **$10.95 + s&h***



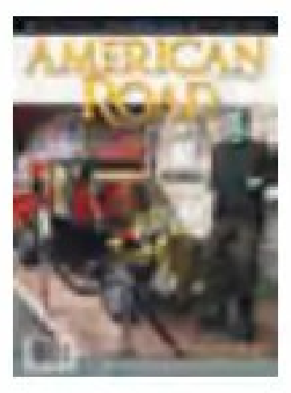
Volume XVII, Number 4 (Winter 2019)
Features include "Painted Places: A Look at Ten Masterpieces and the Places that Inspired Them" and "Art Cars: A Weird and Wonderful World on Wheels." **$10.95 + s&h***



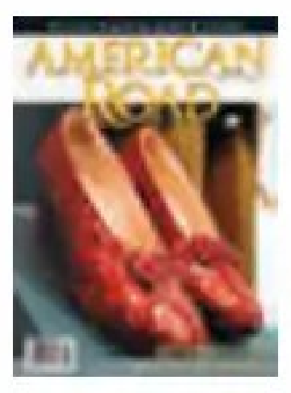
Volume XVIII, Number 2 (Summer 2020)
Features include "King of the Wild Frontier," "Through the Gap with Daniel Boone," and "It's Kit!""
$10.95 + s&h*



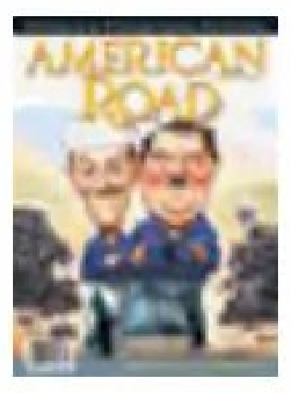
Volume XVIII, Number 3 (Autumn 2020)
Features include "Pilgrims Progress," "Talking Turkey," and "Hooray! For the Pumpkin Pie!"
$10.95 + s&h*



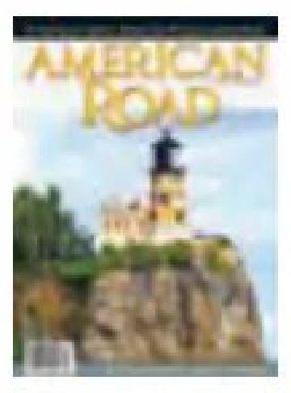
Volume XVIII, Number 4 (Winter 2020)
Features include an interview with Anson Williams, "Classic TV Cars," and "Don't Touch That Dial!" Photo Contest.
$10.95 + s&h*



Volume XIX, Number 1 (Spring 2021)
Features include "Return to Oz," "The Wiz Revisited," and "Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!"
$10.95 + s&h*



Volume XIX, Number 2 (Summer 2021)
Features include "The Three Stooges Go to Yellowstone," "American Road's Comedy Road Films," and an interview with Paul Reubens. **$10.95 + s&h***



Volume XIX, Number 3 (Autumn 2021)
Features include "Back to the Lighthouse" and "The Last Lighthouse Keeper."
$10.95 + s&h*

*SHIPPING & HANDLING RATES FOR BACK ISSUES:
Add $1.00 s&h per back issue
Order 20 or more back issues and s&h is FREE!

THE *AMERICAN ROAD*® WEAR COLLECTION

PERSONALIZE ANY ITEM FOR $5.00!

***American Road* shirts are a must for every *American Road* enthusiast!**

The *American Road* Denim is made of 100% cotton prewashed for comfort. Makes a great "jacket" over a T-shirt or tank top! Ladies' sizes now available!

Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL: $35.95
Tall sizes $41.95. s&h $7.50.

The *American Road* polo is a 50/50 cotton blend to minimize shrinkage. Shirts are available in blue, red, ash, and tan. Ladies' sizes are now available!

Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL: $35.95, or $39.95 with a pocket. s&h $7.50.

The *American Road* T-shirt is 100% pre-shrunk cotton. Add the name of your favorite roadie to the back of this shirt for an additional $5.00!

T-shirt sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL:
White: $15.00. s&h $6.95.
Ash: $16.99. s&h $6.95.

AMERICAN ROAD® HAT

This six-panel, relaxed-fit cap with adjustable self-fabric back and brass-colored buckle-snap fastener and grommet is perfect for cruises and rallies!

$25.00 + $6.95 s&h.

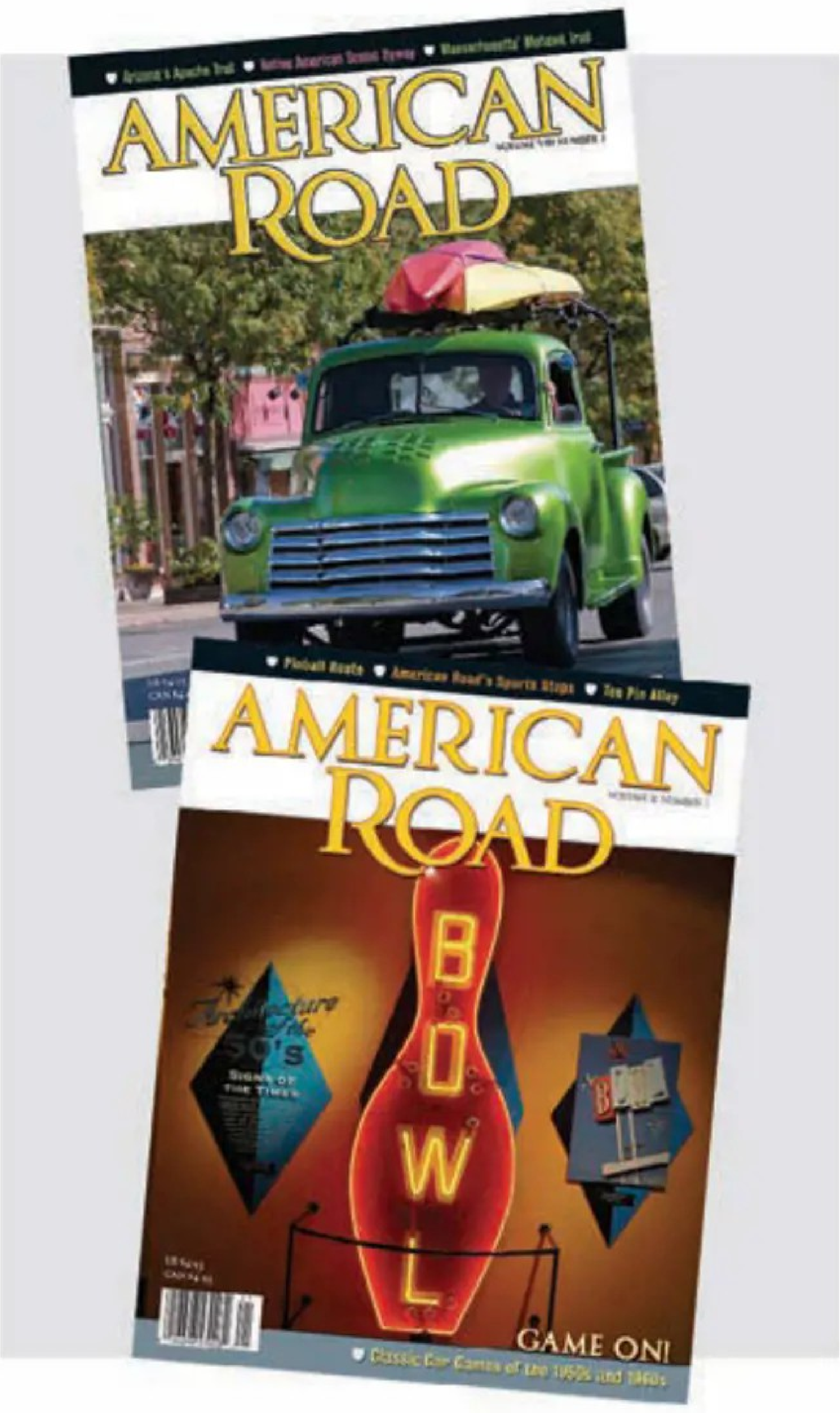
AMERICAN ROAD® SOFTSHELL JACKET

With its waterproof three-layer construction, shaped seams, tapered waist, and adjustable cuff tabs with rip-and-stick closure, this 100% polyester bonded-to-microfleece jacket offers reliable protection from the elements. You can add your name below the *American Road* crest!

Sizes S, M, L, XL, MXL: $95.00. s&h $6.95.

AMERICAN ROAD SUBSCRIPTIONS

PRINT, DIGITAL, OR PRINT AND DIGITAL!



Join us as we explore America's back roads! Whether you're traveling in an RV, on a motorcycle, or in a groovy Volkswagen minivan, *American Road* will help you plan your journey of a lifetime! Subscribe today!

PRINT	DIGITAL
1 year (4 issues) $19.95	1 year (4 issues) $11.95
2 years (8 issues) $34.95	2 years (8 issues) $20.95
3 years (12 issues) $42.95	3 years (12 issues) $28.95

PRINT & DIGITAL
1 year (4 issues) $22.95
2 years (8 issues) $37.95
3 years (12 issues) $55.95

AMERICAN ROAD® DELUXE CANVAS TOTE

Personalize any tote for as low as $2.00!

It's the perfect carryall for wherever you go!

Personalize your tote with your own photo, logo, or text. Text may be added to the front for $2.00. A color photo and text may be added to the reverse for $5.00.

Made from 100% natural 8 oz. cotton canvas—great for the environment!

Deluxe Canvas Tote:
14 × 14 × 3
$14.95 + $6.95 s&h

Two-Tone Deluxe Canvas Tote:
19 × 15 × 6
$19.95 + $6.95 s&h

AMERICAN ROAD® ON-THE-GO ORGANIZER

Stash your credit cards, USB, and accessories in the fully zippered, On-the-Go Organizer manufactured from polyester and simulated leather. It features a front slash pocket for travel documents and a back slash pocket with RFID blocking technology that prevents unauthorized access to personal info. The interior features three mesh compartments for accessories.

9.33 × 5.2 × 9.3
$34.95 + $6.95 s&h.

AMERICAN ROAD® 22-OUNCE THERMOS

Keep your coffee hot for twelve hours or your water cold for forty-eight with this stainless steel, wide-mouth, insulated thermos. It's spill-proof and perfect for road-trip refreshments because it fits in most standard car cup holders. We can personalize it with your name for free. Hand wash only.

10.7 × 2.8. $39.95 + $6.95 s&h.

AMERICAN ROAD® CLASSIC TOTE

The *American Road* Classic Tote is a 600-denier polyester waterproof bag that comes in handy for shopping, work, and packing snacks for your next road trip! This attractive tote is available in white with blue trim or blue with red trim.

16 x 12 x 5. Specify color.
$24.95 + $6.95 s&h.

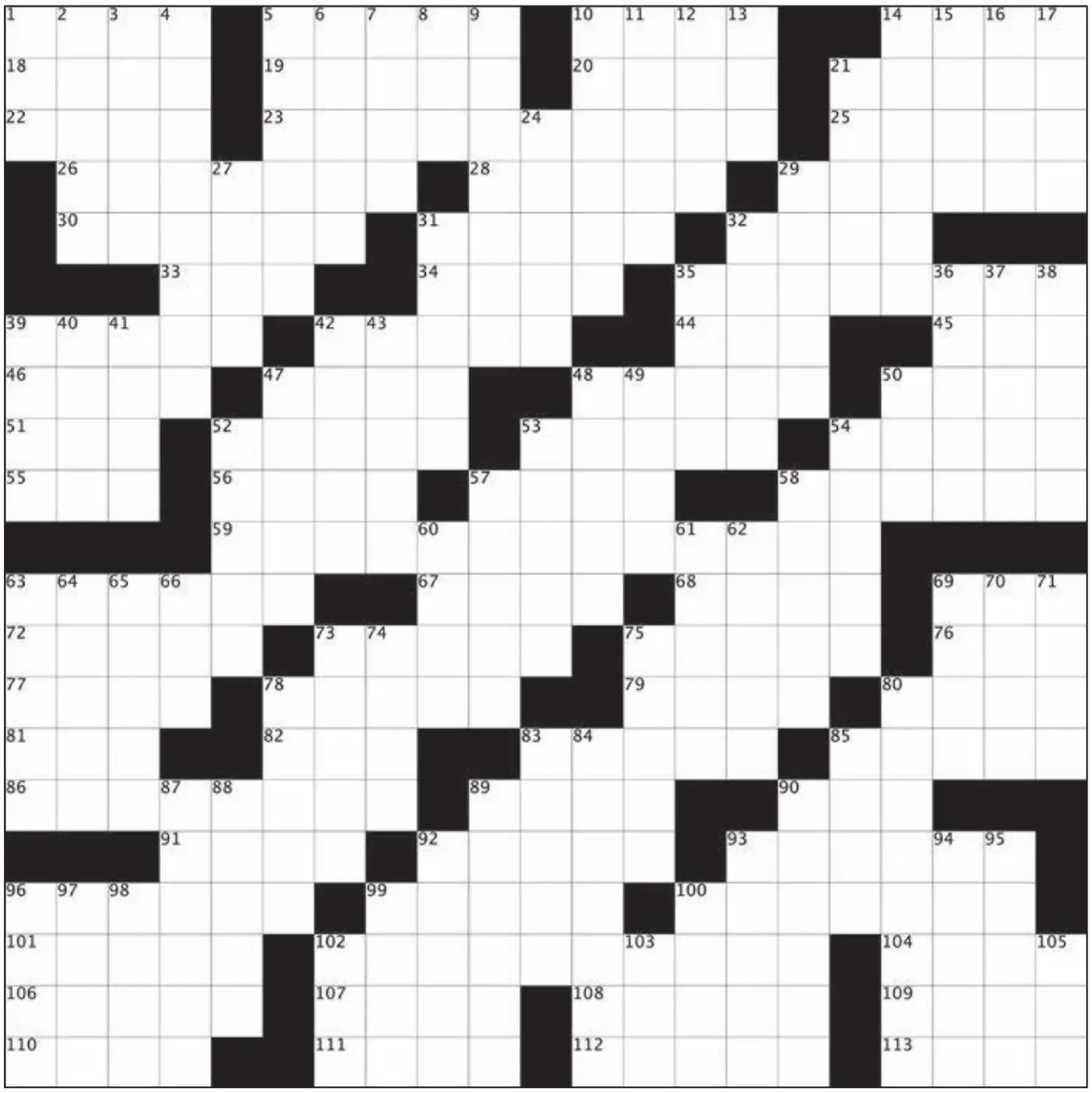
AMERICAN ROAD® COOLER BAG

This custom cooler bag is made of 300D polyester with insulated lining to keep snacks fresh and drinks chilled. It transforms into a duffle-style bag to more easily carry and store.

11.8 × 7.1. × 11
$39.95 + $6.95 s&h.

AMERICAN CROSSROAD

“Mother Goose on the Loose”



ACROSS

1. Talk back
5. Like the Jolly Green fellow
10. Jack Horner’s prize
14. Milne’s bear
18. Fair
19. Pear type
20. Swell
21. Monetary unit of Kazakhstan
22. Logroller’s spin
23. Italian auto that frightens Miss Muffet?
25. Become accustomed (to)
26. German car fit for Chicken Little’s sly enemy?
28. Bookstore section
29. Gretel’s brother
30. Netherlands city
31. Story-telling uncle
32. Spore cases
33. Chicago trains
34. S&L offerings
35. German hatchback sure to speed along Alice’s tardy friend?
39. Tire
42. Romps
44. Letters from Greece
45. Piece of music: Abbr.
46. Fashionable 1960s Brits
47. Acclaim
48. Develop
50. *The Caine Mutiny* author Herman
51. Last word
52. Monetary units of Estonia
53. North, South, East, and West
54. Where the Hatter serves tea
55. Some MIT grads
56. Court action
57. Spirit
58. Big guy around the redwoods
59. British economy car perfect for those feline mitten losers?
63. Simple Simon’s companion on the Howard Johnson’s marquee
67. Apple Store purchases
68. Smooth
69. Theological degree
72. End of the line?
73. Stock
75. Intertwines
76. Little Boy Blue’s stack
77. Brood
78. King with the golden touch
79. Give off
80. Starboard’s opposite
81. Long, long time
82. *Wheel of Fortune* buy
83. Beauty’s love interest
85. “Why Grandma! What big ___ you have!”
86. American truck tough enough for Mary’s Little Lamb?
89. Applaud
90. PC component
91. Part of a track
92. Outline
93. “The Farmer in the Dell” dairy stand-alone
96. Gulliver’s flying island
99. Like the Three Mice
100. Cut
101. Musical direction
102. American car royal enough for Old King Cole?
104. Like the Piper of Hamelin
106. Beats
107. Hit on the head
108. Salt lake in Iran
109. *Frozen* character
110. Observe
111. Raisins, to a gingerbread man
112. Fountain drinks
113. Tree house

DOWN

1. Nickname, say, for the cral *The Little Mermaid*
2. Pivotal
3. Waste metal
4. Little plastic green guys
5. Faux pas
6. Skull bone
7. *Iliad* warrior
8. “___ funny!”
9. Writing of poor quality
10. First, in Latin
11. Beach resorts
12. Kind of fee
13. Maid’s intro
14. Ballpoint tip
15. Charge
16. Fairy tale heavy
17. Cad
21. Cinderella’s crown
24. Some sneakers
27. Lollygag
29. Pegasus, e.g.
31. Yemeni money
32. Like the Family Robinson
35. Empty
36. Type of prize
37. People of India
38. Word with over or under
39. Hook’s mate
40. Corn ___
41. Totals up
42. Board
43. Nimbi
47. Fair lady of Troy
48. Takes a chance
49. Against
50. Lusterless
52. No-fat eater Jack
53. Grimm beldam
54. Melodies
57. Bugs
58. Attack
60. “What ___ ___, ___ mind reader?”
61. Lions, and Tigers, and Bears
62. Understood
63. Walked worriedly
64. Arctic abode
65. African antelope
66. “All the King’s horses and all the King’s ___”
69. Home for the Old Woman with many children
70. Queen of Hearts pastry
71. The stuff of legends
73. Terminal
74. Eden exile
75. Jumped
78. *West Side Story* girl
80. Leader of the Lost Boys
83. Like some checks
84. Tympanic membrane
85. “Rock a bye, baby, on the ___ top...”
87. One of the seven
88. East Anglian Traction Engine Society, abbr.
89. Baby barnyard fowl
90. Hindu disciples
92. “Crazy” singer
93. Month of the Hindu year
94. River of France
95. Utopias
96. Like *Alice in Wonderland*’s watch-carrying long-ear
97. Collections
98. ___ *My Ride* (MTV series)
99. Harbor sight
100. Standard Generalized Markup Language, abbr.
102. Abbr. after an ancient date
103. String of periods
105. Grammar case: Abbr.

See page 124 for puzzle solution. For additional archived travel-themed puzzles, visit *americanroadmagazine.com/crossroad.*

ON A QUEST?
HEAD OUT WEST.
BE OUR GUEST.

Lose the signal—not the feeling. Autumn is for slowing down and revving up into wide-open nowhere. Hopscotch state parks. Fuel up at famous diners. Get lost in roadside sculpture gardens. These highways are made for pulling over, but that's just part of getting a little out there.

Go For a Drive

GET A LITTLE OUT THERE.

TRAVEL NEVADA

TRAVELNEVADA.COM

EXPLORE THE

NATCHEZ TRACE

MISSISSIPPI ✪ ALABAMA ✪ TENNESSEE

A Unique Journey from Natchez to Nashville.

www.scenictrace.com